



BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE
CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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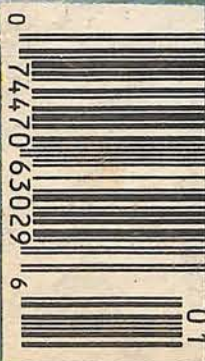
2nd annual readers'
poll on back page

Three Bears earn
trip to Pro Bowl

Dismal season ends
with 26-0 loss

Finally, the
end is here

Bears can put frustrating
season behind them





A newspaper devoted exclusively to the
Chicago Bears and the NFL

Vol. 14, No. 26 January 1, 1990

Cover photo by
Steve Woltmann

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Defense shows improvement with hitting against 49ers

Not too many people expected the Bears to win Sunday, but I did see some good things from them, especially on the defensive side of the ball. Namely, the hitting was a lot better against the 49ers. That shows the Bear defense didn't give up before the game ended. And there were times that the pass rush was really coming on.

DOUG BUFFONE



In the past few weeks I just didn't see the Bears hitting that hard on defense. But this time they made up their mind to go after people. And that's the key to the Bears playing well on defense. They have to go back to being a tough, physical football team. Everything else stems from that.

Once you have the hitting, everything else comes on pretty smoothly. But even when you have solid hitting, you have to play smart to put it all together. The touchdown pass to Jerry Rice in the first half is a perfect example. The Bears' secondary didn't figure that Rice should be the No. 1 concern. So it

went for the fake to the tight end that left Rice open to beat one-on-one coverage, something he'll do just about everytime.

When you're out there, you have to be thinking of the little things like that all the time. The Bears have a young secondary, and it'll learn from this. But it hurts the team now.

The five turnovers by the Bears obviously were the difference in the game. Most of the other statistics in the game were fairly even. There's no way you can win with that many turnovers, especially against a team like San Francisco. You might get away with it against some of the poorer teams, but even then you'd have to fight to win.

Between Jim Harbaugh and Mike Tomczak, the Bears had three interceptions and could have had more. They were throwing right to San Francisco. I don't know if their timing is off or if someone ran the wrong pattern or what happened. But the protection they got was good most of the game.

And at times the offense looked like it was a world beater. Tomczak and Harbaugh looked like the knew what they were doing and moved the team well. But then they go into these lapses and made some critical mistakes. They've been doing that all year, and San Francisco is a team you just can't do that against.

Losing 10 of your last 12 games won't make for a happy off-season. But hopefully the Bears at least will be able to learn a few things from the season. It's time to under-

stand what happened and what has to be done.

Let me just say this. This type of season happens to a lot of football clubs. The Bears aren't all alone in this. Remember, the Giants failed to make the playoffs just a couple of seasons after winning the Super Bowl, but they're back in the playoffs this year and are strong.

And in my mind, injuries have played a big part in the Bears' downfall this year. You don't win your first four games against three excellent teams, plus one on the rise, by just luck. There was something there. Now is the time to rediscover what it was and put it back in working order.

Whatever they had at the beginning of the year was there, but injuries were a big factor in losing it. Plus, I think the quarterbacks lost a lot of confidence as the season went on.

Next issue on Jan. 22

The next issue of the Bear Report, with a cover date of Jan. 29, will be printed and mailed on Jan. 22. The issue will include a recap of the Bears' 1989 season, an analysis of each member of the team, results of the readers' poll, stories on what the Bears need to do to return to the top of the NFL, a complete preview of the Super Bowl and more.

DRAW PLAY By Dick Kulpa



Q & A With Mike Ditka

Team speed needed on defense



Mike Ditka jokingly said he might have to be careful when he opens any Christmas presents delivered to him through the mail this year. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

(Taken from Mike Ditka's press conferences last week.)

Q: What has been the problem with the defense this season?

A: If I were to put my finger on one thing, we don't have any team speed on defense. Anybody want to argue that? That's apparent. We better get some. If you're asking about the draft, we've got to go back on the defensive side of the ball.

Q: What about your defensive draft picks this year?

A: Most of the top picks are solid people. Woolford did not play very good (against Green Bay). But he'll come on. Trace (Armstrong) will get better. Roper has come on and played pretty good. But we're not getting the consistent play we need in there.

Q: How much has the loss of William Perry hurt the defense?

A: We miss Perry, period. You can say this and that, but our running defense is not nearly as good without him in there. That's a fact.

Q: What are your thoughts on Neal Anderson, Jay Hilgenberg and Mike Singletary getting named to the Pro Bowl team?

A: This game is not played because of the Pro Bowl. It's played because of the Super Bowl. But it's a nice honor for them to be recognized by their peers and the coaches as the best in the business. I'm happy for them and think it's a great honor to be recognized. In 1985 when we won it, we had nine (in the Pro Bowl). That shows you something.

Q: Do you believe that winning against San Francisco might have some carryover effect into next season?

A: That's way beyond me. You're way ahead of me. The only thing that has to do with this game is the game. It has nothing to do with next year or years beyond or past years. It's just a game that we're going to try to play better in.

You can say there were a lot of good things we've done at times and a lot of poor things. If we can just look at some of the poor things and make them better and still have a certain amount of good things, I think we

can play good football. But you cannot play with a great lack of consistency and be good. That's what we're doing.

Q: Do you have any plans for immediately after the season for a vacation or anything?

A: I'm not making any plans right now. But I'm checking all my mail, that's what I'm doing. I check them. I put them in water first.

Q: Has your mail been that bad?

A: No, my mail's great. But it's great for one reason — the bad ones I don't get. They're filtered out. The good ones are great. But I'm a little worried about the gifts this year.

They haven't come in the way I thought they would. There haven't been a lot of gifts. They haven't come in like they have in the past. I got some baby food from Packer fans and a rattle. But other than that, I really haven't gotten much.

Q: How can you defend Jerry Rice and John Taylor when your defensive secondary is so beat up.

A: I think regardless whether it's beat up or not, it's not beat up to the degree that they're not on an NFL roster. Therefore, they have to rise up. That's been the whole thing. Anytime you have people go down, you have to have somebody to rise up and do the job. Not only do they have to rise up, but the ones that are your better players, they have to continue to play at their level. If that doesn't happen, that's where the falloff comes.

That's what has saved us over the last couple of years. We've had the other people play well, and we had our excellent people play to that level of excellence. But when that's not happening, you can't blame the kids that are just filling in there. I think they'll play OK.

If I could see a whole lot of difference between some of our starters and some of our guys we just put in in the secondary, I don't see a whole lot of difference. It's not like a night and day thing. It's just going to be interesting.

Then if we don't defend them real well — I'm betting that a couple of the Rams' guys

are going to the Pro Bowl and they didn't defend them real well, either. We'll just be one of a large number of teams that didn't defend them real well.

Q: What do you think about Joe Montana? It seems he just keeps getting better.

A: He's great. He's the best in the business. He runs an offense that's greatly suited to what he does, but yet he makes it work. Without him, it's not as functional as it would be with him. He's a great football player and certainly he's one of the key reasons the 49ers have been the Team of the '80s, without a question. He rises up and plays in big games like the great ones are supposed to.

Q: You probably never thought at the beginning of the season that this Bears-49ers matchup would end up being so meaningless, right?

A: I never thought it would be this meaningless, and neither did the people who made the schedule, evidently. They thought it would be a great game. So this one will probably only (be televised) to about five percent of the country.

Q: Over the years, why have the 49ers been so good integrating older players into their system and getting productive years out of them?

A: Well, they have a pretty good system. Their system is not complex. Offensively, it's complex. Defensively, it's a pretty sound system. I think the main thing they ask them to do is play hard. And that's what I see. They play like world champions. They play with pride. They get after you, they knock your block off. That's what I see.

I don't think they ask them to do anything unusual. And they realize they don't do it perfect out there. And it doesn't matter because you're still going to have another opportunity and score points and still be in the game because of their offense.

They certainly have plugged a lot of older people into their defense and plugged them in well. And I have to give them credit for that.

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Game Wrapup

San Francisco gets a gift

Bears wrap up dismal season with 26-0 loss

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

Nothing has gone right for the Bears this season, so why should Christmas Eve in San Francisco have been any different?

More missed tackles, mistakes and turnovers Sunday at Candlestick Park left the Bears looking just like their record this season (6-10) indicates. A 26-0 loss to the 49ers was the final demoralizing chapter of a season gone haywire.

About the best thing that can be said about this season's fourth-place finish by the Bears in the NFC Central is that they'll have an easier schedule next season and the sixth pick in the first round of April's college draft.

Other than that, it's just good riddance to 1989.

"I really don't believe we're as bad as we played at the end," head coach Mike Ditka told WGN-Radio after the game. "Somewhere along the line we lost our confidence. It's been a matter of not both sides of the ball playing well at the same time."

Ditka was criticized earlier this season for

being too critical of his team. But after the final game, he tried to tell his team they have more talent than the 6-10 record would indicate.

"The main thing I told them is that I really believe we're better than we played this year," Ditka said. "And I take the responsibility for this. We'll bounce back and try to put it back together with tough, Bear football. Whether or not we can in one year, I don't know. But I think we can. I think we made a great fall in one year. If we had capitalized on a few opportunities early in the year, we wouldn't have been sitting in a position where this game was meaningless for us."

Though the score might indicate the Bears played Sunday exactly like it was a meaningless game, Ditka said there were some things he saw that the team can build on.

"The defense, I thought, did some good things today," he said. "We did a better job on (wide receiver Jerry) Rice probably than the last couple of times we've played him. I can't get too excited about a 26-0 loss, but there were some kids who went out there and gave it a good rip."

"(The defense) really played well. We put them behind the 8-ball with the turnovers.

But I thought they played hard and inspired. They went after them. I thought we had good pressure. I thought we had some good blitzes in there."

Ditka said he especially liked the way defensive end Richard Dent played. The Bears moved Dent around on the line of scrimmage more than usual, and it paid off with one sack by Dent and good pressure most of the other time.

"I thought Richard played some pretty inspired ball," Ditka said. "I think that's what we have to do with him. We have to hide him a little bit -- move him around. That part was encouraging."

The Bears, just as has been the case most of this season, were their own worst enemies in the first half. They committed four turnovers, two interceptions and two fumbles, and missed a field goal as the 49ers held the Bears scoreless on their way to building a 16-0 first-half lead.

On the third offensive play of the game, quarterback Jim Harbaugh threw an interception when his pass to Ron Morris went through Morris' hands. San Francisco cornerback Don Griffin was right there to grab

the ball at the Bear 35.

The Bear defense was stingy, though, holding the 49ers at the 11-yard line, from where Michael Cofer kicked a 29-yard field goal for an early 3-0 49ers' lead.

On the Bears' next series, a fumble by Brad Muster killed a Bear scoring drive at the 49er 31.

The Bear offense drove into 49er territory again after getting the ball back on an interception by Shaun Gayle. But when the drive stalled at the 49er 33-yard line, the Bears again came away scoreless after Kevin Butler's 50-yard field-goal attempt was long enough but drifted wide right.

The 49ers responded by marching 59 yards in 12 plays to the Bear eight-yard line, where they had 1st-and-goal. Again, the Bear defense got tough, allowing San Francisco just one more yard in three plays before the 49ers settled for another field goal and a 6-0 lead with 7:33 left in the first half.

When the Bears got the ball back, it took them only four plays to commit their third turnover of the game, this time a fumble by Neal Anderson at the Bear 38. But two incompletions thrown by Joe Montana and an eight-yard sack by Dick Chapura forced San Francisco to punt.

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Bears-49ers game statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears.....0 0 0 0 — 0
San Francisco 49ers.....3 13 3 7 — 26

SF, 1, 3:38, Cofer 29-yard FG, 24Y, 7P-1:50, 0-3
SF, 2, 7:27, Cofer 24-yard FG, 60Y, 15P-7:21, 0-6
SF, 2, 14:31, Rice 29-yard pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 63Y, 8P-1:45, 0-13

SF, 2, 14:56, Cofer 36-yard FG, 0Y, 1P-0:04, 0-16
SF, 3, 9:43, Cofer 47-yard FG, 48Y, 5P-2:55, 0-19
SF, 4, 9:16, Flagler 29-yard run (Cofer kick), 64Y, 7P-4:15, 0-26

Attendance: 60,207; Tickets Distributed 65,675; Unused 5,468; Time: 2:57
Weather: Clear, with very light streaks of clouds; Humidity: 49 percent;
Temperature: 50 F; Wind: Light and variable

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	49ers
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	15	17
By Rushing	6	6
By Passing	9	11
By Penalty	0	0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-13-31%	6-13-46%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-3-0%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	289	314
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	66	62
Av. Gain per Off. Play	4.4	5.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	122	130
Total Rushing Plays	31	29
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.9	4.5
NET YARDS PASSING	167	184
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-10	3-22
Gross Yds. Passing	177	206
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	34-17-3	30-16-1
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	4.8	5.6
KICKOFF — NO. IN END ZONE —		
TOUCHBACKS	1-0-0	7-0-0
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	3-35.7	5-34.8
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs + PATs HAD BLOCKED	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE		
(Excluding Kickoff Returns)	43	29
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	4-23	1-9
No. and Yds. KO Returns	7-128	1-21
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	1-20	3-20
PENALTIES — NUMBER AND YARDS	1-5	2-20
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-2	0-0
TOUCHDOWNS	0	2
Rushing	0	1
Passing	0	1
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	0-0	2-2
FG MADE — ATT.	0-1	4-4
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:50	30:10

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago Bears

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Harbaugh	7	44	6.3	12	0
Anderson	13	41	3.2	19	0
Tomczak	2	21	10.5	18	0
Green	2	11	5.5	7	0
Muster	4	7	1.8	3	0
Suhey	1	1	1.0	1	0
Gentry	2	-3	-1.5	1	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	TD	LG	Had
PASSING							
Harbaugh	4	3	30	0/0	0	21	1
Tomczak	30	14	147	1/10	0	26	2

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
McKinnon	3	43	21	0
Morris	3	36	15	0
Davis	3	27	12	0
Muster	2	5	6	0
Anderson	2	4	3	0
Boso	1	26	26	0
Thornton	1	20	20	0
Gentry	1	8	8	0
Waddle	1	8	8	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Gayle	1	20	20	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Buiord	3	107	35.7	0	0	43



Richard Dent's second-quarter sack of 49ers' quarterback Joe Montana Sunday made him the Bears' all-

time sack leader with 82.

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Green	4	1	23	14	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				
Sanders	3	52	20	0
Gentry	3	61	24	0
Green	1	15	15	0

	Fum.	Rec.	Yds.	TD
FUMBLES				
Muster	1	0	0	0
Anderson	1	0	0	0

San Francisco 49ers

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Flagler	8	41	5.1	29	1
Craig	10	31	3.1	13	0
Rathman	4	22	5.5	10	0
Montana	2	16	8.0	11	0
Young	3	11	3.7	10	0
Henderson	2	9	4.5	6	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD	TD	LG	Had
PASSING							
Montana	21	10	106	2/15	1	29	1
Young	9	6	100	1/7	0	45	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Rice	4	101	45	1
Williams	3	38	17	0
Rathman	3	19	12	0
Jones	3	15	7	0
Henderson	1	12	12	0
Flagler	1	11	11	0
Craig	1	10	10	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Jackson	1	16	16	0
Griffin	1	3	3	0
DeLong	1	1	1	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Helton	5	174	34.8	0	2	49

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
Griffin	1	0	9	9	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
KICKOFF RETURNS				

	1	21	21	0
Flagler				

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)

Chicago Bears

	T	A	S	YL	INT.	PD	FF
Tomczak	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duerson	4	2	0	0	0	3	0
Gayle	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Jackson	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
Streeter	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynch	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tate	10	1	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
McMichael	4	0	1	7	0	1	0
Morris	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kozlowski	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armstrong	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chapura	2	0	1	8	0	0	0
Dent	2	0	1	7	0	1	0

San Francisco 49ers

	T	A	S	YL	INT.	PD	FF
Tillman	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pollard	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Griffin	6	0	0	0	1	1	0
Henderson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brooks	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jackson	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lott	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holmoe	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romanowski	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millen	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
Hendrickson	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeLong	2	2	0	0	1	1	0
Thomas	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burt	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kugler	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fagan	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Holt	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roberts	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haley	3	0	1	10	0	0	0
Goss	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walter	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

Dent becomes Bears' sack leader

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

Richard Dent's ninth sack of the season in the first quarter made him the Bears' all-time sack leader with 82. He broke the record of 81.5 held by Jim Osborne, who played for the Bears from 1972-84.

Dent played the game with his late mother's name, Mary, written on his sock. Sunday would have been her birthday.

Steve McMichael also had one sack in the game, which tied him with Dent for the team lead this season at nine.

KEVIN BUTLER'S MISSED 50-YARD field-goal attempt Sunday was his fourth miss in his last five attempts. Butler started the season kicking 14 straight field goals. Before the game, he had made his last four attempts against the 49ers and 4-of-5 at Candlestick Park.

LINEBACKER MIKE SINGLETARY SUFFERED a pulled abdominal muscle early in the second quarter and didn't return to the game. Second-year man Dante Jones replaced Singletary at middle linebacker.

It was the first time in his eight-year career that Singletary did not finish a game he started.

Singletary thought at first the injury was much more serious. "My first thought was that it was a lacerated kidney," he said. "Then I thought maybe I had a broken rib. The trainer told me 10 days and it should feel fine if I don't try to do anything on it. I'll be okay for the Pro Bowl!"

THE BEARS' SIX FIRST-HALF drives ended like this: two fumbles, two intercep-

tions, one punt and one missed field goal.

STEVE MCMICHAEL STARTED HIS 101st consecutive game Sunday, and Jay Hilgenberg made his 100th consecutive start.

SUNDAY'S 26-0 SHUTOUT was the first time the Bears were shut out since Dec. 14, 1987, when the 49ers beat the Bears at San Francisco, 41-0.

The last time the Bears were shut out before that was 23-0 on Jan. 6, 1985 in the NFC Championship game against the 49ers at San Francisco.

Do you see a pattern here?

THE BEARS FINISHED THE SEASON with six straight losses, their most consecutive losses since 1978, when they lost eight in a row.

Their 6-10 record is their worst since a 4-10 record in 1975, not including the Bears' 3-6 record in the strike-shortened 1982 season.

ROOKIE MARK GREEN, PLAYING in his second game since coming back from arthroscopic knee surgery, was back on punt returns for the Bears. They also ran a reverse on the opening kickoff to Green that he returned to the 22-yard line.

THE BEARS' 1990 HOME AND AWAY SCHEDULE looks like this:

Home -- Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Seattle, Atlanta and the Los Angeles Rams.

Away -- Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Tampa Bay, Denver, Los Angeles Raiders, Phoenix and Washington.

It's possible the sites of the Washington and Rams games could be changed. The Bears have played at Washington two years in a row, and the Rams have played at

Chicago two years in a row.

THE BEARS WILL HAVE THE eighth pick in each round of the college draft in April, except in the first round. They'll have the sixth pick then because both Dallas and Phoenix gave up their 1990 first-round picks when they took players in the 1989 supplemental draft.

MATT SUHEY ENDED HIS 10-YEAR career in the NFL Sunday. Suhey carried the ball just once Sunday for one yard. For his career, Suhey is the Bears' fourth all-time leading receiver with 259 receptions and sixth on the Bears' all-time rushing list with 2,946 yards.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARTERBACK JOE MONTANA set an NFL record for highest season quarterback rating, finishing Sunday with a 112.4 rating.

Former Browns quarterback Milt Plum held the previous record of 110.4, set in 1960.

Montana almost set a record for highest season completion percentage, as he entered the game having completed 71.5 percent of his passes. But after completing just 10-of-21 passes against the Bears, Montana's season completion percentage fell to 70.2, below Cincinnati quarterback Ken Anderson's NFL record of 70.5 set in 1982.

SECOND-YEAR SAFETY DAVID TATE was pressed into action at cornerback Sunday and recorded 11 tackles. Dave Duerson was back at strong safety after missing the last three games, and Shaun Gayle was able to play at free safety.

ROOKIE GUARD JERRY FONTENOT suffered a bruised right knee in the second quarter but was able to return to the game.

QUARTERBACK JIM HARBAUGH WAS THE game's leading rusher, gaining 44 yards on seven scrambles. Neal Anderson had 41 yards to finish the season with 1,275 yards on the ground.

FOR DITKA, THE SEASON TURNED around for the Bears after the loss to Houston. "At a critical point in that football game we were confused," Ditka said. "And we had no business being confused because we had everything on the line. And I think that's where I started doubting a little bit. And probably I hurt the team by doubting. But we just never got on track after that."

Perry has knee surgery

Defensive tackle William Perry underwent surgery Dec. 18 to repair cartilage damage in his injured knee. And while performing the surgery, doctors discovered Perry had been playing for at least three seasons with a torn anterior cruciate ligament, an injury that has ended many careers in the league.

Bears' trainer Fred Caito said the torn anterior cruciate hasn't bothered Perry because the knee has remained stable.

Doctors repaired the medial and lateral cartilage in the knee, and Perry is expected to be on crutches for at least six weeks.

Perry's rehabilitation could be hurt by his weight, which is estimated to be at about 360 pounds. "Obviously, I think he'll have to lose some weight. It'll help his rehabilitation," Caito said.

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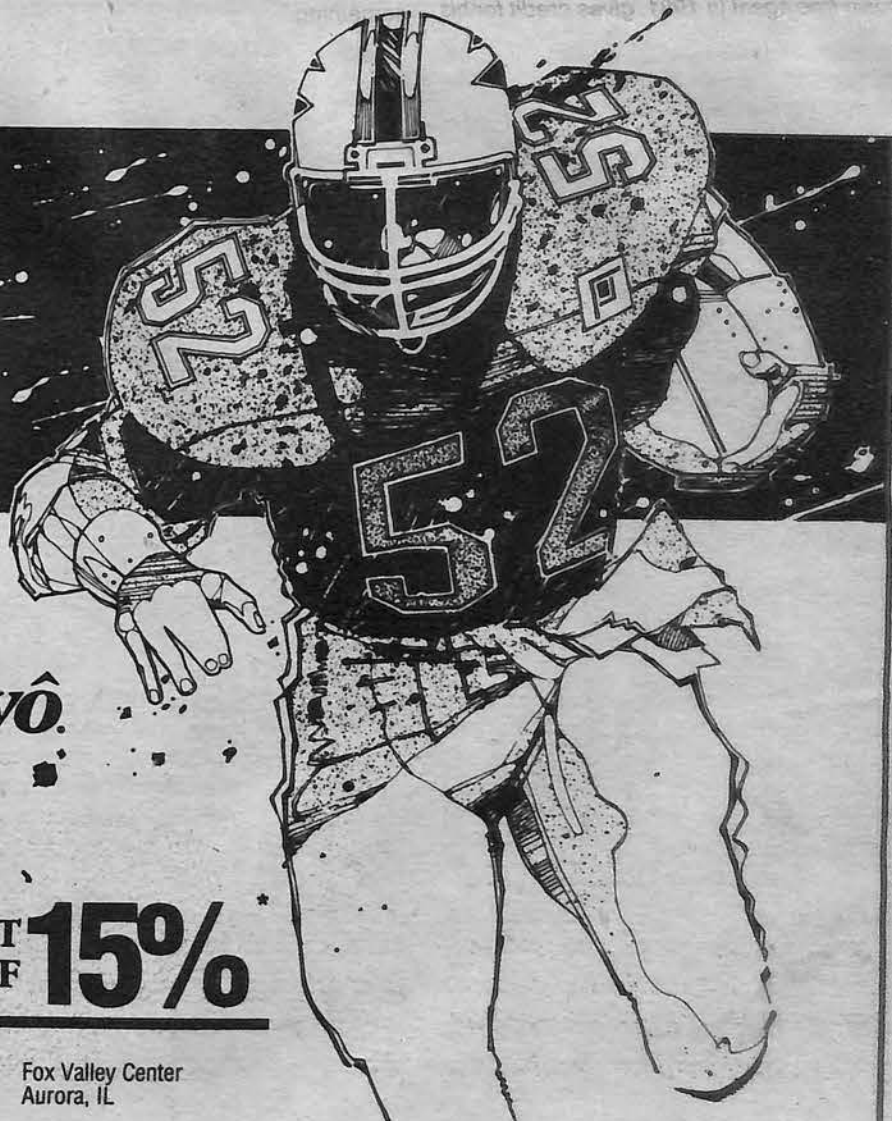
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Three Bears on Pro Bowl team

The disappointment of a losing season has extended into the post-season, as only three Bears were named to the NFC Pro Bowl squad last week, the fewest Bears sent since after the 1983 season.

Mike Singletary is the Bears' lone representative from the defense, while Jay Hilgenberg and Neal Anderson made the squad from the offense. All are starters on the team.

Singletary will make his seventh straight appearance in the Pro Bowl Feb. 4 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hilgenberg makes his fifth straight appearance and Anderson is going for the second straight year.

It's small consolation for the three after going through the Bears' worst season since 1982.

"Last year it was a lot better feeling because things were going well and we were preparing for the playoffs," Anderson said. "Now we're just preparing to play the last game of the season. I think it takes away from this somewhat."

But the numbers still show Anderson is having his best season of his career. Entering Sunday's game against the 49ers, Anderson had a career-high 1,234 yards rushing and led the Bears with 48 receptions and 90 points.

"To me, it's one of the highest honors — to be selected by your peers. And to be selected as a starter, that's icing on the cake," Anderson said.

Anderson won't rest now, though.

"I'm still not entirely satisfied," he said. "I always think I can do a little bit better. At times this year, I wish I had gotten the ball more, but we've been forced into situations where we've been behind."

Hilgenberg, who made the Bears as a rookie free agent in 1981, gives credit for his

play to former Bears' center Dan Neal.

"I just always think back coming in as a rookie, I had a chance to play underneath a guy like Dan Neal," Hilgenberg said. "And that's the guy I always give credit to. He's a very unselfish veteran player that helped me out very much. If it really wasn't for Dan Neal, I don't think I'd be playing in the NFL."

Hilgenberg, who made his 100th consecutive start for the Bears against San Francisco, thinks others from the Bear offensive line should be going to the Pro Bowl, also. The Bears lead the NFC in rushing and are among the leaders in fewest sacks given up.

"We definitely should have more guys out there from our line," he said. "I don't know why it's me. It's almost embarrassing to think about. But it's a nice honor. There's a lot of guys on our offensive line through the years that have deserved to go."

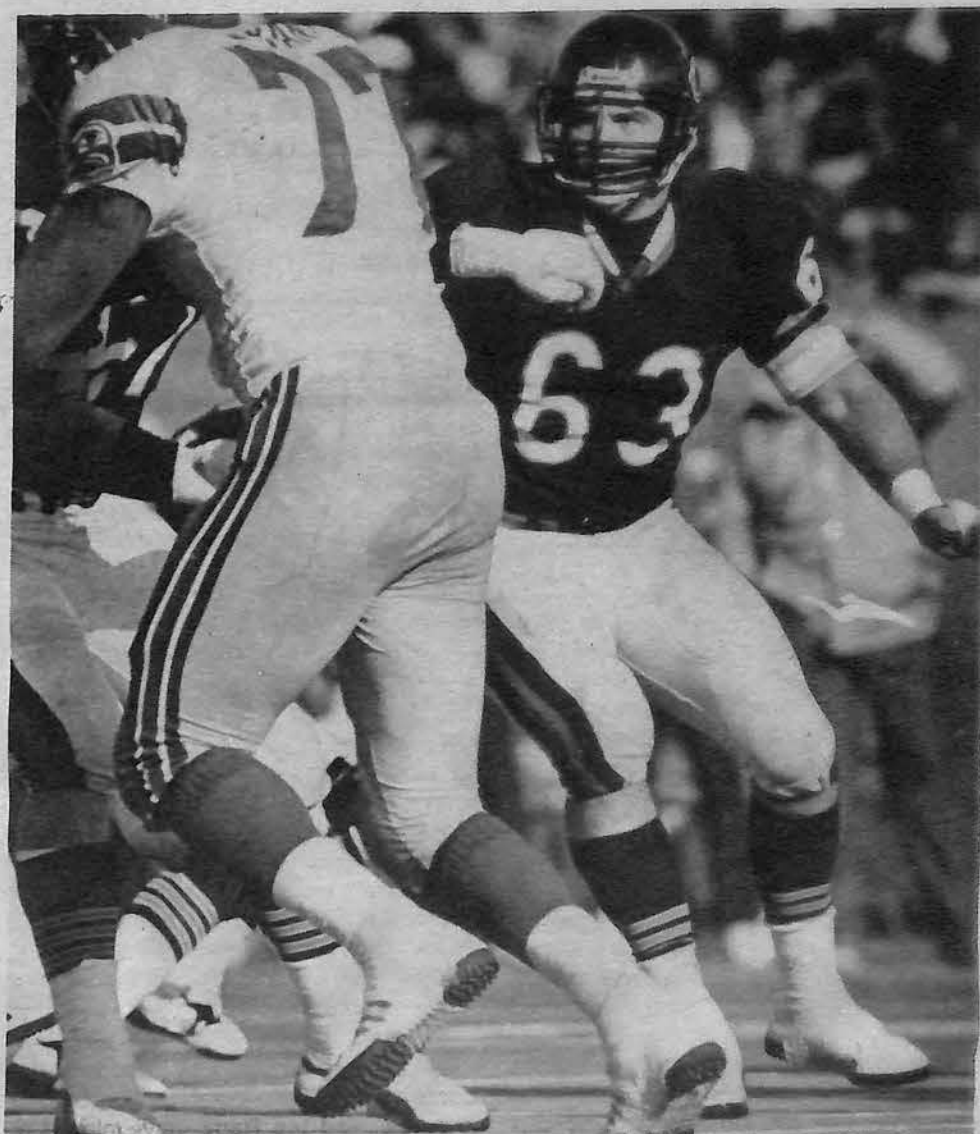
The trip to Hawaii might be lonely for Singletary, who is the Bears' only defensive representative for the first time since after the 1983 season.

Dave Duerson didn't make the team for the first time since after the 1985 season.

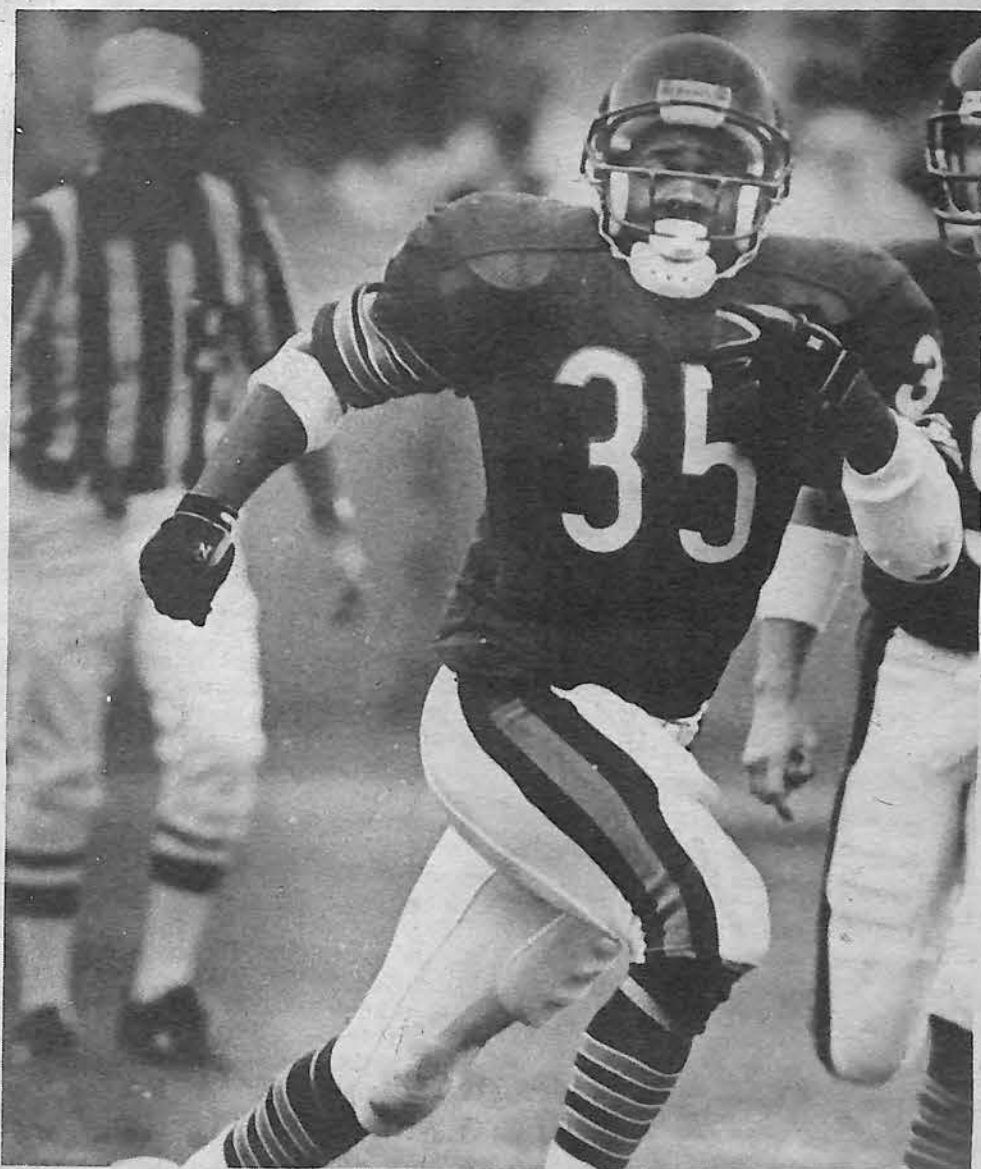
"It's been a while since I've been over there representing our defense by myself," Singletary said. "You're always grateful when you receive some type of award, but Steve McMichael played great again this year. It's kind of tough to receive an award like this when you know that other people played well (and didn't go)."

Head coach Mike Ditka, though, didn't think any other Bears deserved to go.

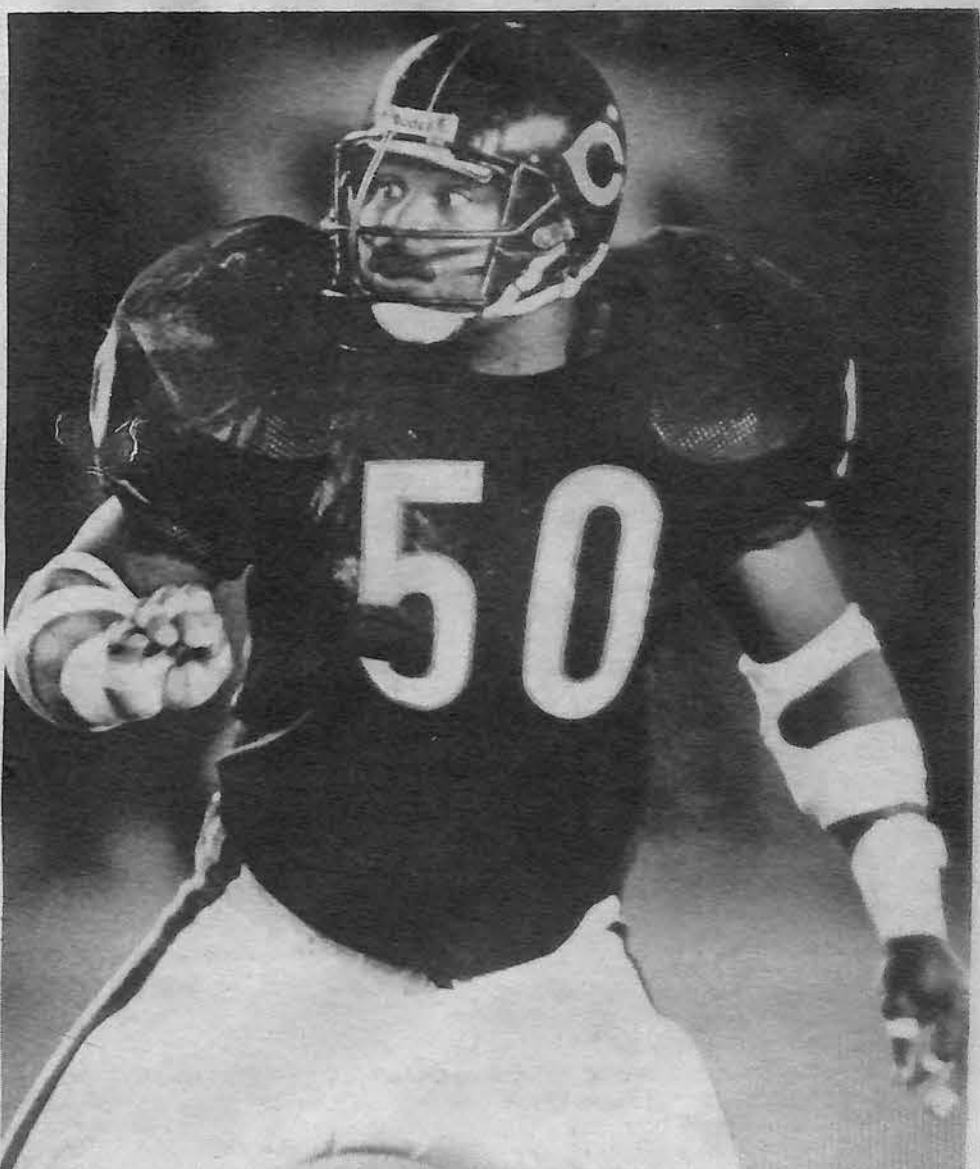
"If they should have been in there, they would have been in there," Ditka said. "When we won it in 1985, we had nine (Pro Bowlers) in there. I think that shows you something."



Bears' center Jay Hilgenberg will make his fifth consecutive trip to the Pro Bowl Feb. 4. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Halfback Neal Anderson enjoying his best season in the NFL, makes his second trip to the Pro Bowl as a starter. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



Middle linebacker Mike Singletary is the Bears' only defensive player to go to the Pro Bowl this year. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Central Issues

by John Delcos

Lions show progress with all-pros



Detroit Lions

The Lions' last winning season was in 1983, when they won the division at 9-7 but were bumped early by San Francisco in the playoffs. There have been few good times since.

However, coach **Wayne Fontes** said an indicator of growth is that four players are going to the Pro Bowl: **K Eddie Murray**, rookie **RB Barry Sanders**, **ILB Chris Spielman** and **NT Jerry Ball**.

The last time Detroit had as many as four was in 1972, when it had five representatives.

"It's great for the organization and our program," Fontes said. "Let's hope this is a sign of things to come."

Spielman gloated about his election. When he was drafted last year from Ohio State, draft analyst **Mel Kiper** criticized the selection.

"It's particularly gratifying for me because of all the critics I had coming out," Spielman said. "Kiper said I should've been a fifth-round pick and that I'd be lucky to stick on the team."

Sanders lived up to the high expectations. His reaction was one of bashfulness, but he had a season that screamed brashness.

"It's something I really wasn't anticipating, but I'm grateful for it," said Sanders. "It's an indication of how well the guys played up front."

Ball, a third-round pick in 1987, developed into a force with a team-high nine sacks and 69 tackles. The Pro Bowl is the realization of a dream.

"It's definitely something I always wanted," he said. "It was one of my goals. I thank God for giving me the talent to do it."

Murray is going to his second Pro Bowl, although he has kicked well enough to go several other times. He converted 94 percent of his field-goal attempts, but because the offense failed to give him a lot of opportunities, Murray didn't finish among the top kicking scoring leaders and thought that might cost him.

"I felt I performed well enough to be selected," Murray said. "I guess guys maybe took into consideration what I've done in the past rather than what I've done this year."

Still, the Lions weren't happy with four. They thought either **Mel Gray** or **Walter Stanley** — or both — should go as returners instead of New York rookie **Dave Meggett**. Stanley leads the conference in punt returns, 2.3 yards better than anyone else. Gray leads in kick returns, 2.1 yards better. Meggett was fourth in punt, and ninth in kick returns.

"This isn't anything against Meggett, he had a good season," said **P Jim Arnold**. "But it's a shame Mel or Walter weren't able to go."

Stanley was less diplomatic. "I think we got screwed," he said. "It's a slap in the face to me and Mel Gray. We're definitely outperforming all return men in the league week in and week out. It's not a fluke."

INJURIES: **LB George Jamison** (knee), **QB Rodney Peete** (knee), **CB Terry Taylor** (ankle), **WR Robert Clark** (toe), **LB Toby Baston** (toe), **LB Victor Jones** (toe).

UNOFFICIAL NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 20th (9th run, 25th pass). Defense — 17th (7th run, 24th pass). Turnovers — 31 takeaways, 46 giveaways for minus 15.



Minnesota Vikings

The Vikings were again the class of the NFC, sending seven: **DT Keith Millard**, **DE Chris Doleman**, **CB Carl Lee**, **S Joey Browner**, **TE Steve Jordan**, **OG Randall McDaniel** and **OT Gary Zimmerman**.

Coach **Jerry Burns** said the biggest surprise was McDaniel. "He went into the season without any hype, but we knew he was a good player."

As the Vikings stumbled through December, they don't look the lock to reach the Super Bowl as predicted. Hawaii is nice, but it can't take away the sting of losing in January, said Jordan.

"I'd gladly exchange the Pro Bowl for the Super Bowl," Jordan said. "I've experienced the Pro Bowl. I want to go to the Super Bowl and have that experience."

Said Burns: "Both the players and myself would be happier with an improvement in our overall play than the number of players we have in the Pro Bowl."

Pro Bowl voting is done on reputation. Sometimes the most deserving are ignored because nobody knows them, while others get by on their names.

"I probably had my best year two years ago," Lee said. "The voting is tough. If you aren't sure, you usually vote for a name you know. Since I started last year, maybe that got me some votes."

INJURIES: **LB Mike Merriweather** (ankle), **RB D.J. Dozier** (knee), **DT Tim Newton** (knee), **QB Wade Wilson** (knee), **Millard** (shoulder), **WR Leo Lewis** (ribs), **C Kirk Lowdermilk** (finger).

UNOFFICIAL NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 15th (7th run, 19th pass). Defense — 1st (9th run, 1st pass). Turnovers — 31 takeaways, 32 giveaways for minus 1.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

If **WR Mark Carrier** has a season next year as he did this year, he'll make the Pro Bowl. An unknown, Carrier had to get shunned to earn his reputation.

Despite having the third-most receptions and yardage in the NFC — more than the Rams' **Henry Ellard** and 49ers' **John Taylor** — Carrier was ignored. It's the fourth straight year in which no Bucs have been voted to the team.

Taylor's good, but the bulk of his support came as the result of catching two 90-yard touchdown passes in a Monday night game against the Rams.

"Taylor is in everybody's memory," said **WR Bruce Hill**. "Who can forget what he did on Monday night? In this league, you have to make a name for yourself first. Certainly, TV helps. And being on a winning team helps."

Carrier tried to hide his disappointment, but it was hard.

"That's the way it goes," he said. "I didn't make the decision. I thought I had some impressive numbers, and I felt pretty good about my year. But I can't worry about it."

INJURIES: **QB Vinny Testaverde** (ankle), **DE Reuben Davis** (shoulder), **G Mark Cooper** (ankle), **G Tom McHale** (shoulder), **RB Sylvester Stamps** (hamstring).

UNOFFICIAL NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 23rd (23rd run, 14th pass). Defense — 18th (18th run, 14th pass). Turnovers — 36 takeaways, 36 giveaways for EVEN.



Green Bay Packers

Like Detroit, the Packers' growth is reflected in Pro Bowl voting.

QB Don Majkowski — Green Bay's first quarterback to make the Pro Bowl since **Bart Starr** did it 22 years ago — **WR Sterling Sharpe** and **LB Tim Harris** will represent Green Bay.

"I think it's great for those individuals and it's good for our team," said coach **Lindy Infante**. "I'm a believer that from team success comes individual honors. When you win, everybody takes a different look at your players. All three of those guys played well last year and none of them got any notoriety."

When Majkowski struggled last season, Infante said he was more of a "gunslinger than a manipulator," meaning he tried to challenge and strong-arm defenses rather than probe at weaknesses.

"He's a manipulating gunslinger right now," Infante said. "He has played more within the offense. He's so much farther ahead of where he was last year."

Majkowski credits his success to an off-season of as much mental preparation as physical.

"I worked real hard at the mental part of my game in the off-season and all of this year," Majkowski said. "I put a lot of time trying to be a smarter quarterback and it's noticeable. I'm much more comfortable."

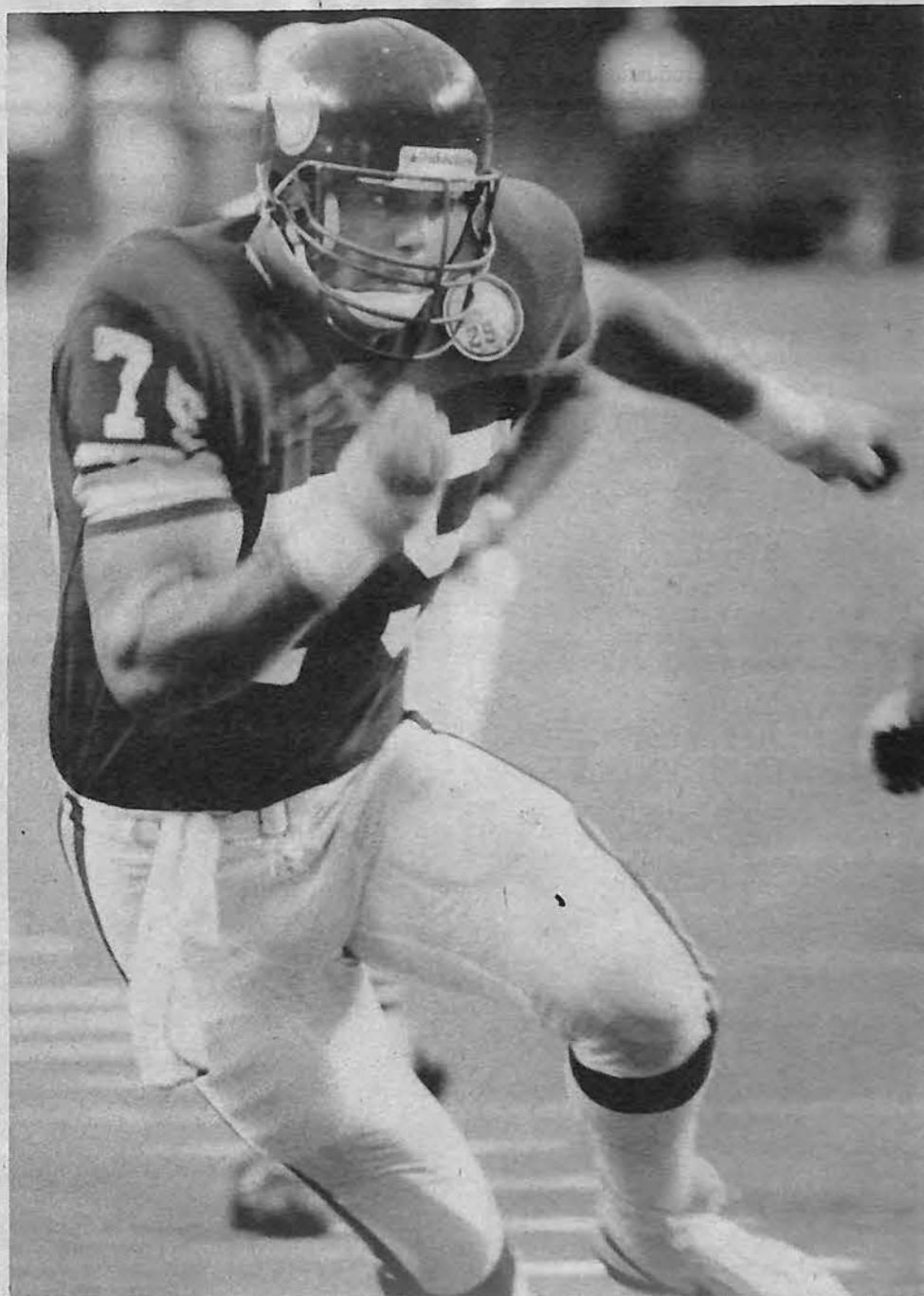
Sharpe, who leads the NFC in receptions and is second in yardage, said he'd trade Hawaii for New Orleans. "I really didn't care about making the Pro Bowl. It's an honor to go, but I'm more interested in the playoffs."

It was thought the arrogant, and sometimes obnoxious, Harris wouldn't be elected because of his behavior.

"It's satisfying to be voted in by one's peers," Harris said. "It also lets me know I can still act the same way, still talk a lot of stuff and they'll vote for me if I play the way I'm capable of."

INJURIES: **Majkowski** (shoulder), **LB Johnny Holland** (shoulder), **Harris** (ankle), **LB Scott Stephen** (ankle), **LB John Anderson** (ankle).

UNOFFICIAL NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 5th (17th run, 5th pass). Defense — 16th (19th run, 13th pass). Turnovers — 35 takeaways, 32 giveaways for plus 3.



Defensive lineman Keith Millard is one of seven Vikings to earn a berth in this year's Pro Bowl, set for Feb. 4 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Official Call

Officiating not all that bad

Q1: Why would anyone want to be a football ref? You get run over, it's either too hot or too cold and everyone is screaming at you all the time. Why do it? G.B. Vienna, VA

A1: Every person who puts on a striped shirt at any level of competition has his or her own individual reason for doing it. There are, though, some common threads in all the reasons. I think every official looks for a little bit of all the things that I find in officiating.

JEFFREY LEAF



Officiating satisfies more psychological needs than anything I've ever done. We all have the need to belong to something. I belong to local and national officials' associations. I also work regularly with the same crew of officials. They have become a second family for me. Jerry Markbright, NFL Referee, tells in his book that he and his crew go to Catholic church on Sunday morning. Jerry is Jewish, but praying together as a crew is more important than any individual's particular preference.

We all, also, want to feel like we are a little different than everyone else. When I tell people that I officiate college football, they certainly look at me as being a little different. Officiating provides the same satisfaction to the official that playing the game does to the athlete. I still get goose bumps before the game at the playing of the National Anthem. I also feel great after a game when I performed well. It's harder to define good performance in officiating. There are no statistics to keep. Every official, though, knows when he did a good job and when he didn't.

There is the same goal motivation in officiating as there is in playing a sport. The NFL is the ultimate goal for every football official. For the officials who attain this level, there is the goal of working the playoffs and the Super Bowl.

Just as with the players, success in officiating requires dedication, sacrifice and hard work. In quest of their goals, officials must train physically and mentally 12 months a year. In the off-season, the NFL sends monthly study exams to every official. These are to be returned to the league office. Prior to the annual officials' clinic, a 150-200 question exam is sent out. This exam is entirely play situations, like the plays that I give each week. Only, the plays on this test are more complicated than anything you can imagine.

On the physical side, every official has his own methods. I will do moderate exercise during the winter. Then, May 1 is my official start date to train for the upcoming season.

Officiating brings many side benefits with it. It is a great motivator to exercise and stay healthy. Besides, it's the best seat in the house to watch a ballgame. I don't enjoy the game as a spectator. The real thrill of the

game can't be felt in the stands. On the field, the official is so close to the action that he can hear and even feel the hits when they happen. There is no doubt that power is a turn-on in officiating. But, using power is not where it's at. If an official abuses his power, he will lose it. The power trip in officiating is knowing you have the power. You must use it sparingly.

The coaches screaming at you is just something that goes with the territory. I read a report that rated officiating athletics as the fourth-most stressful job in the U.S. Screamingers are easy to deal with. You just tune them out. Coaches don't realize that a good official, at whatever the level, has developed a self-confidence which borders on arrogance. The coach's screaming turns the coach into the boy who cried wolf. If he ever does say anything intelligent, I won't believe him.

One of the great satisfactions in officiating is when the losing coach comes up to you after a game and thanks you for a good game. It doesn't happen often, but when it does, it feels great.

My personal philosophy is that I officiate for free. I get paid for taking abuse. Getting paid for being yelled at can be quite lucrative. All NFL officials are required to have full-time jobs. Their pay from officiating is an extra income. Rookie officials in the NFL start at \$600 per game and every year of experience is worth additional. That's not bad for part-time work.

One more thing that makes officiating so satisfying is the people. The officiating community is a close-knit group. Profession, social status and color are buried behind the striped shirt. When any one of us needs help, we all pitch in. Many of my closest friends are officials. So is my lawyer, my insurance agent and my auto mechanic.

If you get the idea I think officiating is the greatest thing since sliced bread, you're right! If you can take the heat, you'll love it in this kitchen.

Jeffrey Leaf is an official and rules interpreter for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and a member of the National Association of Sports Officials. You can direct your questions on football rules and officiating to him by writing to 'The Official Call', PO Box 773, Annandale, VA 22003.

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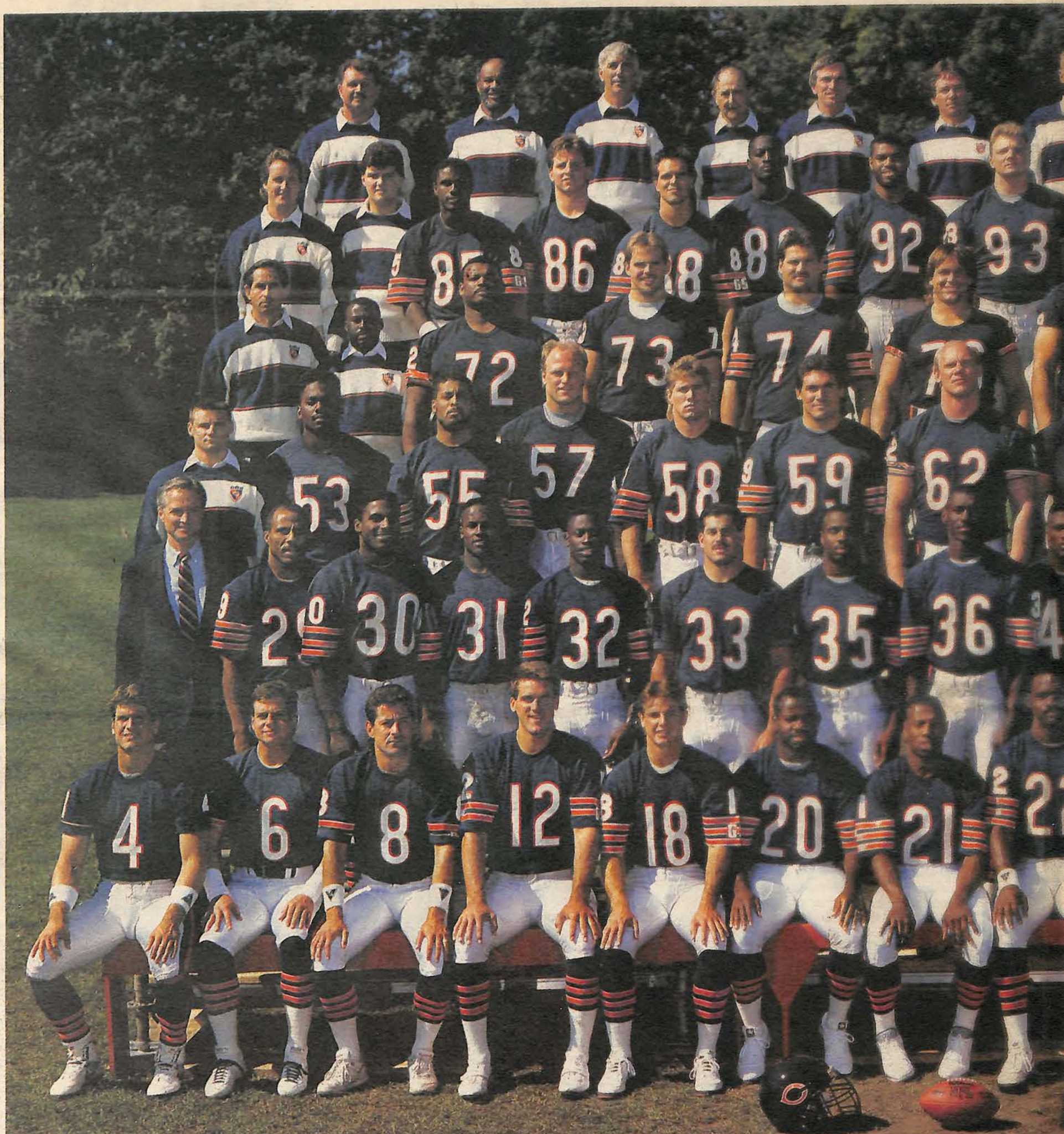


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1989 Chicago Bears

FIRST ROW (from left): Jim Harbaugh (4), Kevin Butler (6), Maury Bluford (8), Brent Snyder (12), Thomas Sanders (20), Donald Woodford (21), Dave Duerson (22), Shaun Gayle (23), Wendell Bryant (25), Matt Suhey (26), Brian Taylor (27).

SECOND ROW: President Mike McCaskey, Dennis Gentry (29), George Streeter (30), Mark Starks (31), Brian Berg (33), Neal Anderson (35), Markus Paul (36), Lorenzo Leland (43), Dante Stupari (50), Jim Morrissey (51), Mickey Pruitt (52), Vice President of Player Personnel (53).

THIRD ROW: Asst. Trainer Mike Kordach, Dante Jones (54), John Gaper (55), Tom Thorne (57), Ron Rivera (59), Mark Bortz (62), Jay Hogenberg (63), Dave Zerkow (64), Tony Woods (66), Chris Dyke (68).

FOURTH ROW: Trainer Fred Cahn, Asst. Equipment Manager Tony Martin, William Perry (70), John (73), Jim Goyert (74), Steve McMichael (76), Keith Van Horn (78), Jim Thornton (80), Brandon Morris (84), Equipment Manager Gary Haeger.



Mike Tomczak (24), Jackson (24).

(51), Lemuel (49), Mike (49), Mike (49), Mike (49).

Steve Hyche, Jerry Foster.

John Cholewicki, Ron (92), Ron (92), Ron (92).

FIFTH ROW: Assistant Trainer Brian McCaskey, Video Assistant Dean Pope, Dennis McKinnon (85), Gap Boss (86), Glen Kozlowski (88), James Coley (88), Ted Johnson (92), Tracy Amerson (93), Dick Chaput (94), Richard Dent (95), Dan Hampton (95), Strength Coordinator Clyde Enrick.

SIXTH ROW: Head Coach Mike Ditka, Running Backs Coach Johnny Roland, Offensive Coordinator Greg Leavitt, Defensive Backs Coach Jim LeRue, Defensive Coordinator Vince Tobin, Linebackers Coach Dave McGinnis, Offensive Line Coach Dick Stanton, Receiver and Utility Control Assistant Jim Gentry, Receivers Coach Vic Rapp, Special Teams and Tight Ends Coach Steve Kizer, Defensive Line Coach John Kevra.

Photo by Mitch Friedman
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Defense suffers without Hampton

One of Mike Ditka's greatest fears came to pass in 1989. The Bears' defense collapsed and took the rest of the team with it.

For years, the Bears' coach has always observed that great teams that fell back to the pack did so because their defenses deteriorated. Earlier this year, he pointed to the Vikings, who couldn't replace the defensive line that helped them get to four Super Bowls in the late '60s and early '70s and became one of the league's worst teams of the early '80s.

TERRY BANNON



That's what happened to the Bears in 1989. The secondary was consistently exposed by a front seven that couldn't apply consistent pressure.

Thanks to the draft, the Bears may have a chance to get the pass rush healthy quickly. They will have five picks in the first three rounds and will draft early in the first round for the first time since 1983. By next year, 1989 first-round end Trace Armstrong will have a full training camp and a full season

under his belt. His pass rushing technique should be improved.

Improvement is also needed from Richard Dent. Dent didn't have a bad season, but he never got back to the form he displayed in 1988, until a broken leg in the 13th week ended his season.

Dent's leg still bothered him during the season. A deep thigh bruise limited him to part-time play (and one complete missed game) in a three-game losing streak that dropped the Bears to 4-3 and marked the beginning of the end.

Tackle Steve McMichael did all he could this season. He was the Bears' most valuable defender. But he found himself double-teamed.

But the biggest blow was the loss of four-time Pro Bowl tackle Dan Hampton after the fourth week. Hampton's departure may sound like too easy an explanation for the Bears' problems. But too much of a losing team's post-season analysis gets into clichés about attitude, hard work, etc. There is some truth in all of that. But the attitude will get better when the pass rush gets better.

Consider this: the Bears went 4-0 with Hampton and fell apart when he left. Hampton's speed and quickness collapsed opponents' pass protection, allowing other linemen or blitzing linebackers to get in the face of the opposing quarterback.

"It all derives from the fact the pass rush is under the weather," Hampton said. "I'm not indicting my teammates. I'm just saying the defense has come under a lot of criticism. The quarterback has a lot of time to pat the ball. When they do that, we've always been vulnerable here in Chicago."

Ditka wasn't surprised at the difference the loss of Hampton made. "To me, it probably makes a bigger difference than it does to other people," Ditka said. "He's an outstanding football player and an outstanding leader and one of the mainstays of our football team."

Hampton watched with frustration as the pass rush deteriorated. He's determined to be back next year, contributing. He had operations on both knees this season, giving him 10 in the last six years. Recent medical reports are positive.

"My knees are as good as they've been in the last five years and I've played pretty darn good the last five years," Hampton said. "I'm going to play next year and I'm going to play well. I hope it's here."

The Bears must decide whether to protect Hampton under Plan B free agency. They also must sign him to a new contract. Given the state of their defensive line, they can hardly afford to let Hampton leave. A few good games out of Hampton next year could make the difference between making the playoffs and not making them.

But a Hampton comeback would only be for one season. That doesn't fix the pass-rush, long-term. The draft will have to help there. And so will more speed at linebacker and in the secondary.

A big-play linebacker like Wilber Marshall might be a good addition. John Roper, a second-round pick this year, may fill that role.

A fast safety who's a big hitter would be a big asset, too. As always, the Bears could use a cornerback. But cornerbacks are only as good as the seven men who play ahead

of them. Donnell Woolford, a first-round pick this year, was a victim of the pass rush, injuries and coaching decisions. He separated a shoulder in the second week of the season, was involved in a car accident at midseason that resulted in a staph infection, then broke his hand in the Dec. 17 loss to Green Bay.

"I'll take Donnell Woolford over any cornerback in the league," Hampton said. So will everyone else as soon as the Bears rebuild their pass rush.

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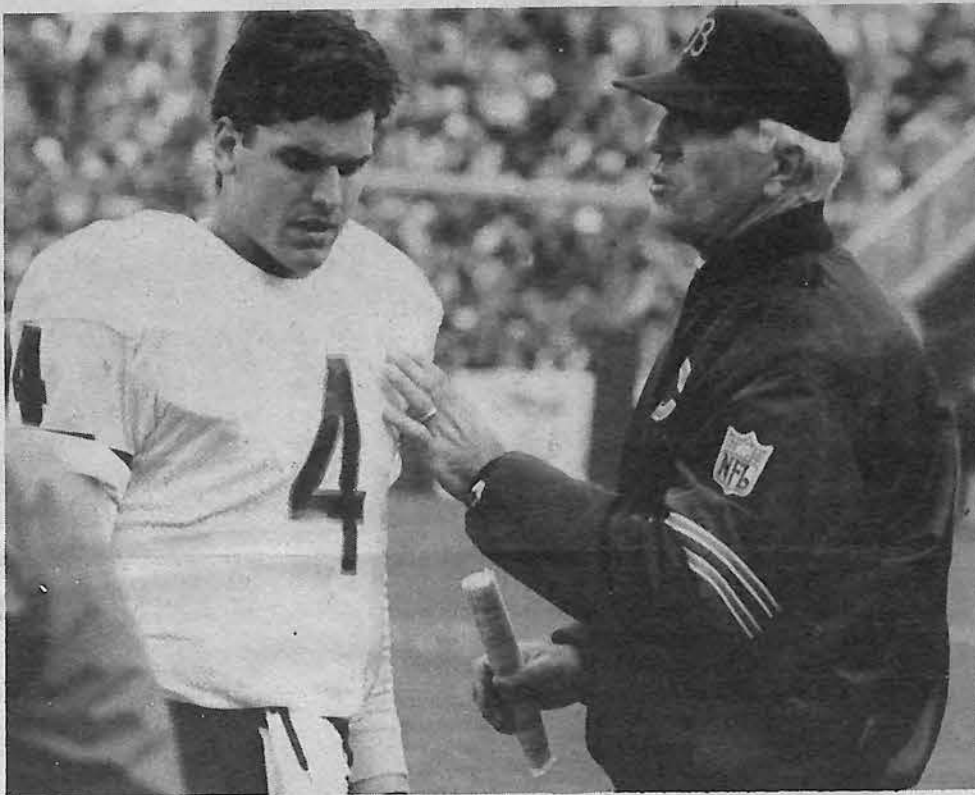
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CHICAGO BEAR FOOTBALL



Offensive coordinator Greg Landry (right) would like Jim Harbaugh to learn about scrambling in the NFL before he needs a knee operation. (Bear Report photo by David J. Garot)

Harbaugh learns in limited shots

After three seasons, quarterback Jim Harbaugh is effectively about a year and a half into his career. It's too early to tell whether he can lead the Bears back to the playoffs, and it's too early to say he can't.

He couldn't have done it this year, even with the above-average defense the Bears no longer had. He's still learning. Although his arm is strong, he still trusts his feet more.

KEVIN LAMB



He'll scramble or throw dump-off passes where a more patient quarterback would wait for a downfield receiver to get open. Most young quarterbacks are that way, and the Bears have kept Harbaugh young beyond his time.

Part of it is their fault. When Ed Hughes was offensive coordinator, Harbaugh was an afterthought. He didn't even practice with the first-string offense in regular-season preparation until midway through his second season. That slowed him down. But lack of game time slowed him down more, and it would have been hard to find more of that for Harbaugh.

The Bears were legitimate playoff contenders this year until they were 6-7. At 6-6, they weren't a typical .500 team. They had begun the season 4-0. Then they went into a slump that the team reasonably figured was a week away from ending. If they were going to go 10-6 or 9-7 at that point, Mike Tomczak was the quarterback who could make it happen.

Even on teams that have slimmer playoff chances, there's too much pressure to win next week's game for coaches to worry about developing next year's quarterback. The Chiefs have gone with Steve DeBerg and Ron Jaworski instead of their promising

rookie, Mike Elkins. The Redskins preferred winning with Mark Rypien to learning about Stan Humphries, their quarterback of the future. The Chargers were 4-8 before they replaced Jim McMahon with their prospect, Billy Joe Tolliver.

The Raiders didn't make a comparable switch — Steve Beuerlein for Jay Schroeder — until after Schroeder was injured. That's usually how young quarterbacks crack the lineup. It's how the Colts, for example, found out last year that Chris Chandler was a better prospect than Jack Trudeau. But at Seattle, even after veteran Dave Krieg's injury gave the Seahawks a reason to use young Kelly Stouffer, and even though they were 4-8 when Krieg's health returned, they abandoned Stouffer's grooming to put Krieg back in the lineup.

Harbaugh in good shape for limited chances

So when Tomczak was injured this year with two games remaining, Harbaugh had started only five games and thrown only 254 passes in the NFL. If his progress has been slow for a three-year man, it has been more than acceptable for someone with his playing experience.

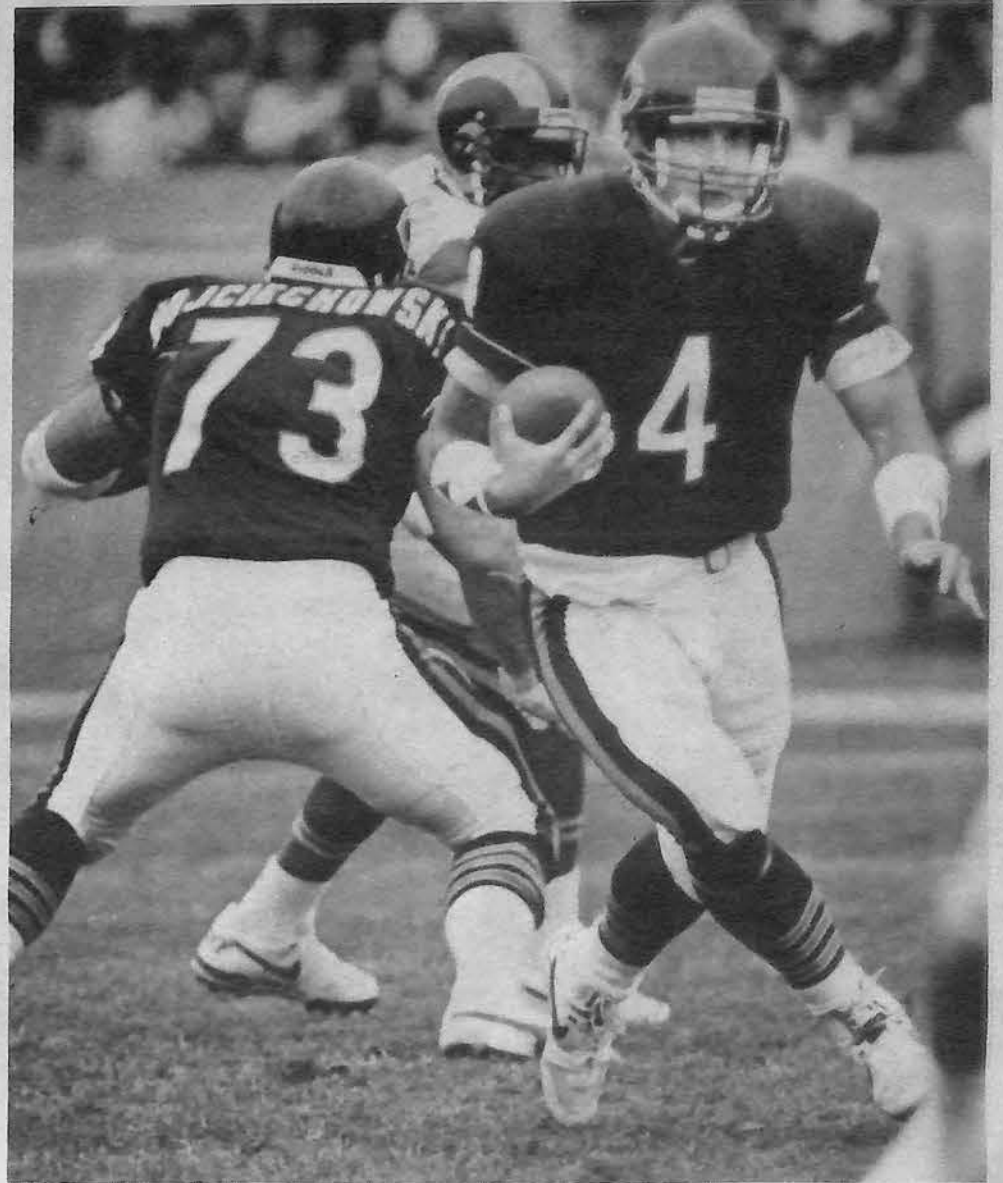
At that early stage of his career, Harbaugh compared favorably to several star quarterbacks. His 65.5 passer rating was within four points of the ratings Don Majkowski and Bernie Kosar had after about 250 passes. At comparable stages, it was about eight points ahead of Randall Cunningham and Vinnie Testaverde, 11 ahead of John Elway and 12 ahead of Jim Everett.

But the six other quarterbacks all reached that point at least one season earlier in their careers than Harbaugh. And unlike Harbaugh, all except Majkowski played college ball in passing offenses.

Harbaugh's completion percentage leads the group. His interception rate trails only Majkowski's. But he's low in yards per attempt and touchdowns.

He needs to throw downfield more. He needs to look downfield first, but coach Mike Ditka said Harbaugh also must learn to trust his arm and throw to receivers who are fairly well covered but not blanketed.

In that sense, young quarterbacks seem



Jim Harbaugh's development in the NFL was stalled early in his career while the Bears decided what to do with their other quarterbacks, Mike Tomczak and Jim McMahon. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

to fall into two categories. Kosar and Majkowski also trusted their judgment more than their arms. Like Harbaugh, their early interception rates were two to three percent. Elway, Cunningham, Testaverde and Everett had rifle arms and threw into coverages that were too tight. They threw five to six percent of their passes to opponents.

Just as the cannon-armed headliners learned to be less reckless, offensive coordinator Greg Landry is sure Harbaugh will learn to be more daring. It's already happening. Last week, he said, Harbaugh completed a late pass to Wendell Davis that "had to give him confidence because it was tight coverage and he zipped it right in there."

Ditka not always clear

Again, Harbaugh is not entirely to blame. He has gotten several mixed signals this year from Ditka. It can't seem smart to throw into coverage with his arm when Mike Tomczak gets benched for interceptions. And why wouldn't Harbaugh run often? Ditka said Tomczak didn't run enough when he made Harbaugh the starter for three games, and he said Harbaugh's running at Pittsburgh was the difference in that victory.

Landry knows the feeling. He was a gifted runner once, too. He made the same mistakes he's trying to coach out of Harbaugh.

The good ones learn in time. Landry still believes Harbaugh is a good one. It's his job to help Harbaugh learn faster than he did. "With me, it took three knee operations," he said.

Ditka also has criticized Harbaugh's choice of receivers. Against Detroit, only one completion went more than 11 yards downfield before the final two-minute drill, which was extreme caution even against Detroit's generally deep coverage. The long ball wasn't much more apparent against Green Bay. But running often and throwing short are problems that go hand-in-hand, bound together by the impatience of inexperience.

Quarterbacks pick out receivers according to how they read the coverage, which

simply means which defenders they see where. When certain defenders commit themselves, that establishes the quarterback's progression of receivers — whom to check first, second, maybe even third before going to the safety valve.

Decisions come too fast

Harbaugh's problem isn't ignoring the primary and secondary receivers. It's that he crosses them off his list too quickly.

"Sometimes, he looks like he's scared, like he's just running for his life," Landry said. "He's really not. Jim's a courageous player. But as a running quarterback, you say, 'He's covered. I'm gone.'"

At the other extreme, Landry said Joe Montana is the prime example of a quarterback who might go from his first receiver to his second receiver and back to his first. He'll wait, or he'll take some steps to avoid the rush. At the same time Montana is seeing a downfield receiver slip open, Harbaugh already has dumped the ball to his safety valve or tucked it away and run.

Harbaugh knows his progressions in the classroom. "But under the pressure of a pass rush and people being in your face," Landry said, "you say, 'I can run and get a first down.' You've got to block out that innate ability."

He seemed to be doing it against Green Bay, when his three touchdown passes increased his career total by 150 percent. Two of them were especially encouraging. On the first, he had to step out of the pocket. He could have run, but he wouldn't have scored. Instead, he just took a couple steps to the side, waited for Brad Muster to pop open and threw him the ball. On another touchdown, he lofted a perfect fade pass, where the receiver runs under a timed pass to the corner of the end zone.

Harbaugh just needs to learn when to run and when not to. He has to decide his arm can win more games than his feet. If he keeps making good plays with his arm, it won't be such a tough decision.

Bears' season statistics

	Bears	Opp.
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	287	315
Rushing	130	112
Passing	138	180
Penalty	19	23
3rd Down: Made/Att.	90/201	78/193
3rd Down Pct.	44.8	40.4
4th Down: Made/Att.	10/15	7/15
4th Down Pct.	66.7	46.7
POSSESSION AVG.	31:15	28:45
TOTAL NET YARDS	5086	5415
Avg. Per Game	339.1	361.0
Total Plays	962	977
Avg. Per Play	5.3	5.5
NET YARDS RUSHING	2165	1767
Avg. Per Game	144.3	117.8
Total Rushes	485	417
NET YARDS PASSING	2921	3648
Avg. Per Game	194.7	243.2
Tackled/Yards Lost	27/164	36/225
Gross Yards	3085	3873
Att./Completions	450/250	524/291
Completion Pct.	55.6	55.5
Had Intercepted	22	25
PUNTS/AVERAGE	69/39.7	62/40.0
NET PUNTING AVG.	33.4	34.9
PENALTIES/YARDS	94/841	92/782
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	21/15	24/12
TOUCHDOWNS	45	41
Rushing	22	20
Passing	21	20
Returns	2	1

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
BEARS	40	108	82	128	0	358
OPPONENTS	66	98	69	118	0	351

SCORING	TD-Ru	Pa	Rt	PAT	FG	S	TP
Anderson	11	4	0	0/0	0/0	0	90
Butler	0	0	0	43/45	15/18	0	88
Muster	5	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	48
Davis	0	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	18
Harbaugh	3	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	18
McKinnon	0	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	18
Thornton	0	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	18
Sanders	0	1	1	0/0	0/0	0	12
Suhey	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
Boso	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Gentry	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Green	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Morris	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
Stinson	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
Tomczak	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
BEARS	22	21	2	43/45	15/18	0	358
OPPONENTS	20	20	1	39/41	22/32	0	351

SACKS: Dent 8.0, McMichael 6.5, Armstrong 5.0, Roper 4.5, Perry 4.0,

Chapura 2.0, Hampton 2.0, Rivera 2.0, Singletary 1.0, Woods 1.0, BEARS 36.0, OPPONENTS 27.0.

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Anderson	261	1234	4.7	73	11
Muster	78	320	4.1	20	5
Harbaugh	38	232	6.1	126	3
Sanders	41	127	3.1	19	0
Gentry	15	109	7.3	29	0
Suhey	19	50	2.6	8	1
Tomczak	22	50	2.3	17	1
Green	3	35	11.7	137	1
Taylor	2	7	3.5	7	0
Buford	1	6	6.0	6	0
McKinnon	3	5	1.7	3	0
Thornton	1	4	4.0	4	0
Morris	1	-14	-14.0	-14	0
BEARS	485	2165	4.5	73	22
OPPONENTS	417	1767	4.2	168	20

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Anderson	48	430	9.0	149	4
Gentry	38	455	12.0	179	1
Muster	30	254	8.5	25	3
Morris	27	450	16.7	158	1
McKinnon	25	375	15.0	41	3
Thornton	23	372	16.2	136	3
Davis	23	370	16.1	152	3
Boso	16	156	9.8	43	1
Suhey	9	73	8.1	22	1
Green	5	48	9.6	21	0
Kozlowski	3	74	24.7	55	0
Sanders	3	28	9.3	116	1
BEARS	250	3085	12.3	179	21
OPPONENTS	291	3873	13.3	197	20

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Stinson	4	59	14.8	129	1
Lynch	3	55	18.3	41	0
Woolford	3	0	0.0	0	0
Roper	2	46	23.0	43	0
Gayle	2	19	9.5	19	0
Jackson	2	16	8.0	16	0
Rivera	2	1	0.5	1	0
Morrissey	2	0	0.0	0	0
Dent	1	30	30.0	30	0
Paul	1	20	20.0	20	0
Duerson	1	2	2.0	2	0
Douglass	1	0	0.0	0	0
Tate	1	0	0.0	0	0
BEARS	25	248	9.9	43	1
OPPONENTS	22	162	7.4	53	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Buford	69	2737	39.7	33.4	9	21	60	0
BEARS	69	2737	39.7	33.4	9	21	60	0
OPPONENTS	62	2481	40.0	34.9	6	13	63	0

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	Cmp.%	Yds./Att.	TD	TD%	Int.	Int.%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Tomczak	276	142	1911	51.4	6.92	16	5.8	14	5.1	179	9/58	72.0
Harbaugh	174	108	1174	62.1	6.75	5	2.9	8	4.6	149	18/106	72.3
BEARS	450	250	3085	55.6	6.86	21	4.7	22	4.9	179	27/164	72.1
OPPONENTS	524	291	3873	55.5	7.39	20	3.8	25	4.8	197	36/225	72.0

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	PD's	FC	FR's	Sacks/Yds.
Mike Singletary	146	76	70	5	2	0	1-2
Steve McMichael	103	56	47	2	1	1	7-39
Shaun Gayle	102	58	44	7	0	2	0
Ron Rivera	92	36	56	4	1	1	2-19
Dave Duerson	79	46	33	7	1	0	0
Trace Armstrong	77	35	42	1	1	1	5-17
Vestee Jackson	68	39	29	11	0	1	0
Richard Dent	66	35	31	4	2	2	8-57
John Roper	64	39	25	6	2	0	4.5-16
#William Perry	61	30	31	2	0	2	4-36
Donnell Woolford	56	36	20	19	0	0	0
Markus Paul	51	23	28	5	0	0	0
David Tate	42	16	26	1	0	0	0
#Lemuel Stinson	42	26	16	15	0	0	0
Lorenzo Lynch	33	21	12	8	0	0	0
Dick Chapura	27	12	15	0	0	0	2-13
#Jim Morrissey	23	20	11	4	0	0	0
#Maurice Douglass	23	12	11	3	0	0	0
Tony Woods	18	11	7	0	0	0	1-1
#Dan Hampton	14	8	6	4	0	0	2-21
Dante Jones	14	5	9	0	0	0	0
John Shannon	7	2	5	0	0	0	0
Mickey Pruitt	6	3	3	0	0	0	0
Troy Johnson	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
#Injured reserve							



Dennis Gentry is the team's leading wide receiver this season, catching 38 passes for 455 yards and one touchdown. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

PUNT RETURNS	Ret	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Green	12	4	118	9.8	24	0
McKinnon	10	3	67	6.7	17	0
Kozlowski	4	0	-2	-0.5	4	0
Waddle	1	0	2	2.0	2	0
Woolford	1	0	12	12.0	12	0
BEARS	28	7	197	7.0	24	0
OPPONENTS	29	5	253	8.7	34	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Gentry	25	606	24.2	63	0
Sanders	20	439	22.0	196	1
Green	10	224	22.4	37	0
Suhey	6	93	15.5	21	0
Pruitt	2	17	8.5	11	0
Chapura	1	8	8.0	8	0
Kozlowski	1	12	12.0	12	0
Tate	1	12	12.0	12	0
BEARS	66	1411	21.4	196	1
OPPONENTS	67	1354	20.2	62	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Butler	0/0	6/6	6/7	3/5	0/0
OPPONENTS	3/3	9/9	2/5	7/12	1/3
Butler: (29G) (40G) (21G, 22G, 25G, 32G) () () () (35G, 46G) (25G, 37G) (39G, 35G), (40G), (), (33G, 44N), (22G, 43N, 37N)					
OPPONENTS: (45N) (33N, 34N) (40G, 48G) (47G, 45N, 19G) () (27G, 42N, 19G) (31G, 35G) (45G) () (39N, 45N), (26G, 22G, 52N, 29G, 28G), (40N, 55N, 28G), (51G, 45G), (45G, 28G) (19G, 44G, 23G, 21G)					

Bear Notebook

McCaskey wants a more mellow Ditka

Make no mistake about it, Bears' president **Michael McCaskey** still believes **Mike Ditka** is the right man to be head coach of the Bears.

But that doesn't mean a few minor adjustments wouldn't hurt.

Specifically, McCaskey said last week he'd like to see Ditka refrain from screaming at his assistant coaches and players while on the sidelines during games. And a few less commercial endorsements by Ditka next year wouldn't hurt, either.

While on Chicago radio station WBBM-AM's "At Issue" program broadcast Sunday, McCaskey said he doesn't plan on giving Ditka a contract extension before the 1990 season begins. Ditka's current contract expires after next season, and he's hinted that he could retire from coaching when the contract runs out.

McCaskey expressed concern that Ditka doesn't suffer from burnout after a losing 1989 season, Ditka's eighth as the Bears' head coach.

"I don't think you can be a successful head coach in this league given the enormous pressures that surround you unless you're having fun — unless there's a zest and excitement, loving the challenge of who the next opponent is going to be and trying to figure out some way to beat them," McCaskey said. "That's one of the main things he and I will be talking about — how much fun is it and what can we do to make sure that, for everybody involved, we're

recapturing some of the fun of the last few years."

McCaskey also expressed concern that Ditka's numerous commercial endorsements may have hurt him in his players' eyes. McCaskey added, though, that all of Ditka's radio and television commercials were taped during the off-season.

"I still think there's a place for asking for a total commitment to the team, and when the head coach says that to his players, it's easier if he has the position of and even the perception in everybody's eyes of being similarly committed," McCaskey said.

About Ditka's sideline outbursts at his coaches, McCaskey said he likes all the Bears' assistants and believes they've done a good job.

"If Mike can stay a little bit calmer on the sidelines and a little bit more in control and use that intensity in a way that furthers everybody's goals, I think we're that much farther ahead," McCaskey said.

•**AS RECORD-BREAKING COLD WEATHER** hit the Chicago area last week, the Bears headed indoors to practice.

The Bears traveled one hour to Morton West High School in suburban Berwyn each day to get out of the below-zero weather. Morton West has a fieldhouse with artificial turf on which the Bears practiced.

•**LAST WEEK'S INJURY REPORT:** It didn't look good for the Bears, who had three players, all defensive backs, on the injury report as they prepared to try to stop **Joe**

Montana, Jerry Rice, John Taylor and the rest of the 49er offense.

Donnell Woolford broke his hand against the Packers and was replaced Sunday in the starting lineup by **Lorenzo Lynch**.

Free safety **Shaun Gayle** suffered a sprained ankle against the Packers, and **David Tate** started Sunday in his place.

Strong safety **Dave Duerson**, who missed the last three games with a sprained ankle, returned to the starting lineup Sunday.

•**INJURIES ARE A BIG REASON** why the Bear defense is ranked 25th in the league.

The Bear defense has used 13 different starting lineups in its first 15 games this season and has used 23 of the 26 defensive players as starters for at least one game this season.

•**ENTERING THE 49ERS GAME** **Jim Harbaugh** had completed 62.1 percent (108 of 174) of his passes this season. The Bears' single-season record for completion percentage is 61.9 percent, set by **Rudy Bukich** in 1964.

•**HOW MUCH DOES THE BEAR DEFENSE** miss **Dan Hampton**?

Two weeks ago the Packers rushed for 217 yards, the most rushing yards against the Bears since 1981.

"It probably makes a bigger difference to me than it does to some other people," Ditka said. "I think you analyze it the way you want to. **Dan Hampton** is an outstanding football player, but he is an outstanding leader, too. He is one of the best defensive tack-

les I've ever seen."

•**DITKA WAS MOST IMPRESSED** with the play of Tate against the Packers.

"He made some mistakes, but he played his heart out," Ditka said. "He smacked some people. He got in the way of some people. He was the only guy I really saw playing with intensity."



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BEAR REPORT

CHICAGO BEARS



CENTRAL DIVISION
NFC CHAMPIONS

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NEIL ANDERSON
DAVE DUERSON**

THE BEARS '89 CHALLENGE

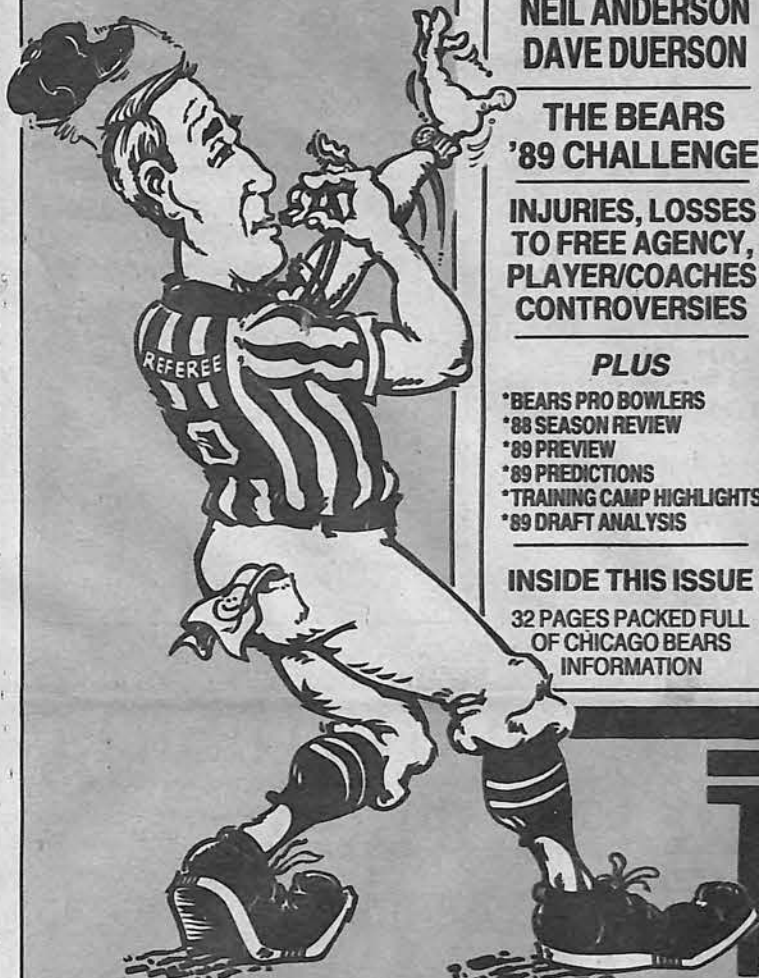
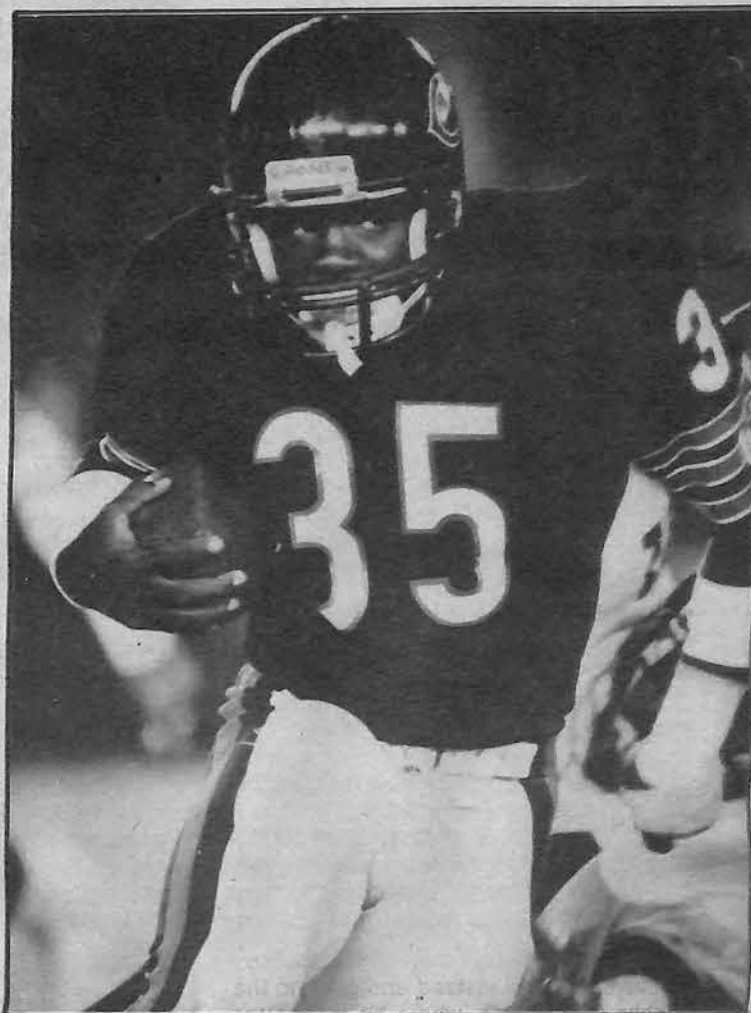
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32 PAGES PACKED FULL
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We all know Coach Ditka was unhappy with the ending of the past three seasons and that he won't be happy until the Bears return to the Super Bowl to battle for the World Championship.

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NFL Notebook

Pro Bowl doesn't fit team concept

The Pro Bowl is football's way of rewarding its players and cursing its teams. Because it spotlights individual achievement in a team sport, it usually serves to undermine most of the basic tenets taught by coaches — one for all, all for one.

It is an honor for agents; who use the Pro Bowl as a chip in bargaining. It is a burden for coaches such as Jerry Burns, who has to explain why the Minnesota Vikings struggle so when they employ 13 players deemed the best in the league at one time or another by their peers and Burns' fellow coaches.

Perhaps it would be better to select units by computer analysis and try to eliminate the human element as much as possible.

DON PIERSON



For example, the Bears led the NFC in rushing, so center Jay Hilgenberg thought a number of his teammates on the offensive line should have accompanied him and half-back Neal Anderson.

That's what happened in San Francisco. The 49ers led the league in passing, so quarterback Joe Montana and receivers Jerry Rice and John Taylor all made it.

The Minnesota Vikings led the league in defense, so rushmen Chris Doleman and Keith Millard made it, as did safety Joey Browner and cornerback Carl Lee. Linebacker Scott Studwell deserved it.

The Philadelphia Eagles, meanwhile, were upset that more of their pass rushers were ignored. They thought Clyde Simmons and Jerome Brown should have made it instead of Washington's Charles Mann.

Or, since the New Orleans Saints led the NFC in rushing defense, why not send all their linebackers to Hawaii instead of just Vaughn Johnson? They could play on run downs and then let Minnesota's No. 1 passing defense take over against Miami's No. 1 passing offense.

•**THE THREE PACKERS WHO MADE** the Pro Bowl failed to comprehend history. Don Majkowski, Sterling Sharpe and Tim Harris were the first to represent Green Bay since James Lofton in 1986.

On what should have been an occasion of celebration for the honor, all three refused to talk to Dallas media on a scheduled conference telephone call. If players complain about being in the media hinterlands in Green Bay, then why this classless move?

Harris had been told by colleagues he never would make the Pro Bowl because of his taunting style of play.

"It lets me know I can still act the same way, still shoot my guns, still talk a lot of stuff and they'll still vote for me," Harris said.

•**MOST OF THE HELP** the Bears are going to need to rebound next year is already employed by the Bears.

Although they will look at Plan B again — they looked last year but passed — they are not likely to find the answers in free agent castoffs or new draft choices.

But if the San Francisco 49ers can be upgraded by Plan B (guard Terry Tausch, special teams man Spencer Tillman), then the Bears surely can find help.

•**WHEN SAM WYCHE ORDERED** his Cincinnati Bengals to run up the score on the

Houston Oilers in week 15, his real target obviously was Cleveland.

Wyche thought by insulting the Oilers, he could stoke a fire for their next game against the Browns and therefore help the Bengals' chances.

Twice before the 61-7 fiasco, the Bengals had run up scores against future Browns' opponents — 56-21 on Tampa Bay and 42-7 on Detroit.

Cleveland beat Tampa Bay the following week but lost to Detroit.

"He'd like to set us up more than anyone," Cleveland coach Bud Carson said. "But in the end, that gets things going for about the first five minutes of the ballgame."

Houston defensive end Sean Jones agreed: "That's ridiculous. Sam spends so much time convincing himself he's a genius, and he's an idiot."

•**CLEVELAND PUNTER BRYAN WAGNER**, a Plan B acquisition from the Bears, set a club record of 91 punts.

"It's a shankless job," Wagner said.

•**CLASS ACT: STEVE LARGENT** never made a Super Bowl, but don't feel sorry.

"To feel sorry for me because I never made a Super Bowl is like feeling sorry for Donald Trump because he lost his billfold," Largent said.

•**ATHLETE OF THE DECADE: Bo Jackson.**

He wasn't even on the *Chicago Tribune* ballot, but can there be any argument? The guy wins the Heisman Trophy in 1985 and is the No. 1 pick in the draft by Tampa Bay. He plays baseball instead and goes to the Kansas City Royals, where he makes the American League all-star team. He plays football for the Raiders as a hobby for half a season and averages 5.6 yards a carry.

He didn't make the Pro Bowl, but this is what Raiders' coach Art Shell said about that:

"Take a guy like Bo Jackson and put him up against the rest of the guys who made it and ask each of the players in the league, 'Which player would you rather have?' Ninety-nine percent would say Bo Jackson. Players start voting for statistics rather than individuals."

And Jackson's favorite sport is track.

•**BUDDY RYAN, ON WHY HIS EAGLES** had only three players selected for the Pro Bowl: "I noticed the Giants only got one — Lawrence Taylor (plus special teamer Dave Meggett) — and they play like us. Minnesota has seven. I guess they're nice guys. We have the most dominating front four in football. I guess our image is against us."



Don Majkowski was one of three Packers named to the Pro Bowl team last week, but he didn't see any need to talk to the Dallas media about it. (Bear Report photo by David J. Garot)

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Thanks to fellow readers

To the editor,

Just a note to say thank you to all my fellow Bear fans who wrote or called in response to my letter of a few weeks ago in *Bear Report* asking for a copy of Super Bowl XX and a copy of "Sweetness," by Walter Payton. The response was more than I ever hoped for. I now have both the book and a tape of the game. Thanks again to everyone who contacted me.

Gregory J. Maddox
Indianapolis, IN

Open letter to Ditka

Dear Coach,

Rather than lament the end of our season, we fans need to share our feelings with you at this darkest moment.

We both learned much this year — about our team, about ourselves, about living with losing, about patience and intolerance in the development of talent, and perhaps even about mistakes in judgment of ability of personnel.

This year we unfortunately have been privy to Bear losses in ways not seen in the Wind City in almost a decade — including the Houston, Tampa Bay and Green Bay games in which we allowed the opposition to literally march down the field at will at the end of the game, and stuff the winning score in our face. Moreover, we've been the victim of blowouts such as Cleveland or Washington.

Yes, coach, we've both made mistakes this year. We "sat on our hands" when the team could have used support. And you lost your temper on the sidelines, and perhaps did not always give your support necessary for the developing younger kids.

We fans perhaps gave uneducated criticism regarding players that the Bear organization either gave up on or kept. And you have, perhaps, permitted your obstinance or intolerance to rid the Bears of players who did not fit into your perceived mold of what the Bears were all about, perhaps erroneously.

Maybe McMahon wasn't the answer. We might have been wrong. On the other hand, perhaps your need to prove us wrong led to your misplaced insistence to stick with Tomczak, a mentally laden quarterback who consistently repeated such glaring mistakes that you overlooked or subconsciously tolerated when you never would have done so for anyone else.

But we both share the hopes for the future. We saw the potential of a Woolford, Roper, Paul, Muster and Armstrong. We know that with some luck we could be 9-4 as this letter is being written. And we both continue to share our appreciation for the Singletarys, Hamptons, McMichaels, Dents, Butlers, Gentrys and Andersons.

Coach, we don't need trite slogans next year like "Whatever it takes." That only gets us through Platteville. We need a greater understanding of the talents on this team, and strategies to exploit them.

And we need you, coach. You are the heart and soul of the Bears. We will stand behind you fully, and our criticisms will only be meant to be constructive, as long as you listen to them.

God bless you. Have a healthy holiday to you and the Bear families. And on Christmas morning may you find under your tree from Santa a brand new quarterback.

P.S. I am holding down the Bear fort in the Long Island area and would like to organize a Bears' fan club. I have a satellite, would welcome "get-togethers" and would plan trips to Chicago each year and occasional road games. Please call me at (516)

678-4736 or write me at 3417 Poplar Street, Oceanside, NY 11572.

Stephen Leiter
Oceanside, Long Island, NY

European wants tapes

To the editor,

I've read a few *Bear Reports* and I think you have a great football paper. I decided to write to you because I'm a fanatical Bear fan and I need help.

In the country where I live, there are almost no football programs. This is the reason why I write to you. Maybe there are Bear fans in Chicago who want to write with me. And maybe there is someone who will have for me a videotape of Super Bowl XX. I will be happy to pay reasonable prices for that. (My VCR is VHS.)

I hope to hear back from some Bear fans.

Arthur Van Amen
Augelslo 45
3085 AA
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Europe

Wants Bears-Cowboys tape

To the editor,

I'm writing to ask if anybody has the Bears-Cowboys game tape when the Bears won, 44-0 in 1985, or the Super Bowl game between the Bears and New England. I would pay for them. If anybody has the games on tape, please write to me.

Joe Godoy
114 Marrie Lane
South Houston, TX 77587

More cash would have helped

To the editor,

In this season's lousy play (2-8 in their last 10 games) the declining level of talent of the Bears' playing personnel has finally begun to show what the organization's necessary frugality and horrible college-drafting philosophy for the years 1985-88 made inevitable.

But the Bears' decline itself wasn't inevitable. If the organization had an amount of cash comparable, say, to that of the 49ers, and if it had not made an egregiously bad series of personnel evaluations and college draft choices, it could still be on top.

Instead, it escaped from last winter's Plan B free agency draft without having to spend a dime. Worse yet, it has never initiated a player trade to fill a gaping personnel hole (neither Gault nor McMahon were traded for this season) or traded up for a higher first-round pick, at least not in recent memory. In fact, as far as deepening their talent pool goes, the Bears are the least aggressive team in the league.

Most of us fans could see the components of 1989's decline being assembled over the past few seasons. Sad thing is, only the Bears' organization seems to have been blind to them. All those high draft choices squandered between 1985 and 1988 on guys who neither block nor tackle are going to have implications far beyond 1989.

David Peterson
Evergreen Park, IL

In search of...

To the editor,

Lost: The Chicago Bears football team. Physical description: The most feared defense in the NFL, answers to the name of "46." A consistent, gutsy quarterback who is a leader, can read defenses and would

throw a touchdown pass despite his coach. Character.

Identifying marks: One Super Bowl ring. Crime committed: There should be three rings.

Known cause of disappearance: Ego, pride, stubbornness, team dismantlement. Last seen: Los Angeles, Washington, Philadelphia, San Diego, New Orleans (Jan. 26, 1986).

If found: Please send to the once proud, woofless city of Chicago.

Reward: A free copy of "The Super Bowl Shuffle II."

Danny Rosenbaum
North Hollywood, CA

Winners are in California

To the editor,

Hey Mike Ditka, where are you at? Us Bear fans down here in Southern California still get to see how an offensive general can quarterback the lowly Chargers.

Granted, you've been able to keep Chicago's defensive general, Mike Singletary, in Chicago. But losing a quarterback that has shown Super Bowl leadership for whatever reason is why the Bears are where they're not supposed to be — living in the city of champions.

And the state that has proven leadership in sporting events shows why Jim McMahon is in California, the leading state of proven winners in sports.

V.J. Wilczynski
Long Beach, CA

Good fans will stick with team

To the editor,

You can check any of the NFL teams and find years they didn't do so good.

Doug Buffone said it in the Dec. 11, 1989 *Bear Report* exactly the way I feel. "The hard core Bear fans will be there for them and cheer them on the rest of the season and hope for the best next year." I remember years past when the Bears lost more games than they won. They are one of the first NFL teams and still one of the best, no matter what.

Emelyn Mast
Elkhart, IN

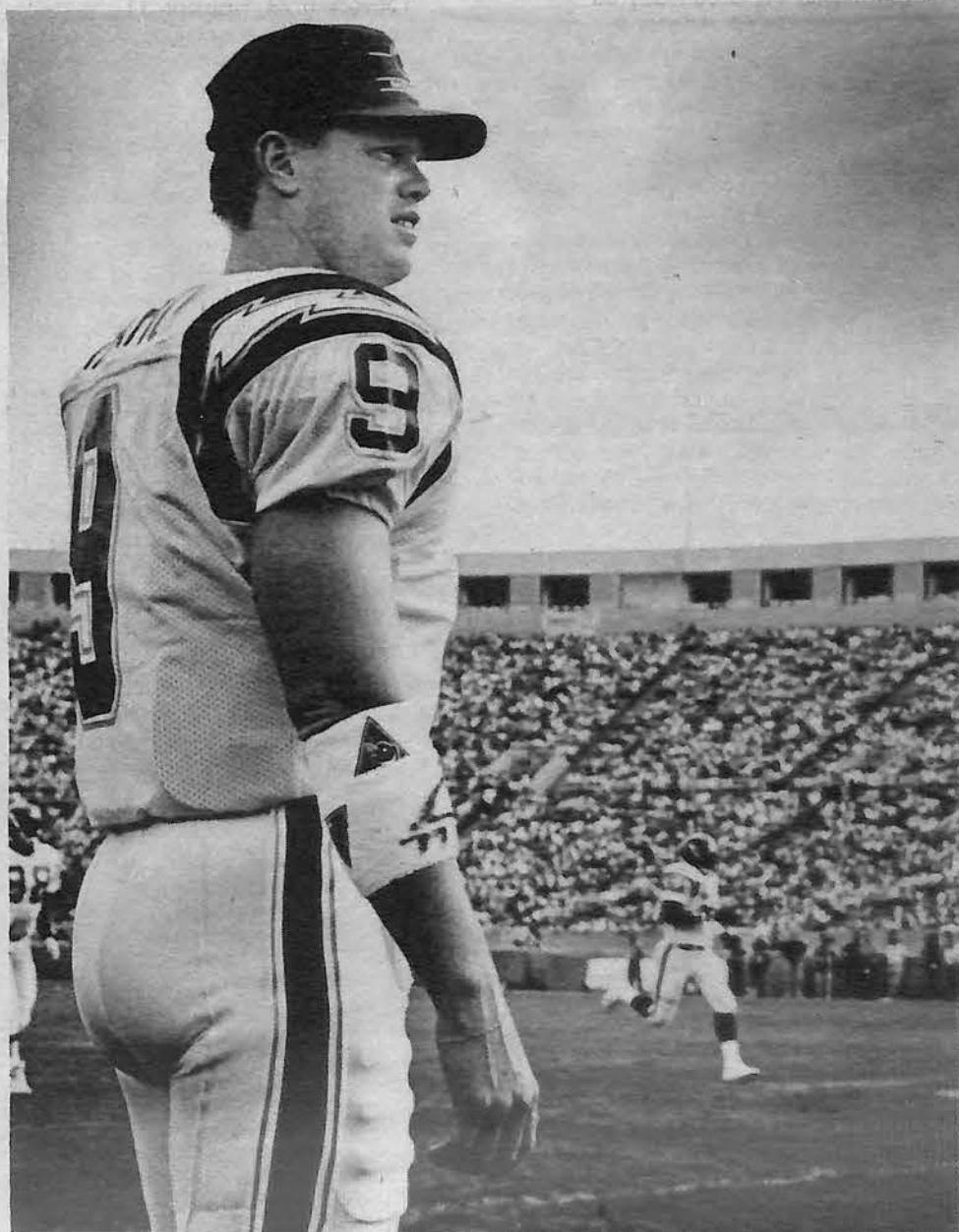
Question on draft picks

To the editor,

Now that the Bears have been eliminated from the playoffs, I am focusing on the upcoming draft, in which the Bears will have, in addition to their own picks, a very high No. 2 pick from San Diego via the McMahon trade. My question is whether it is possible for San Diego to trade down their No. 2 pick and then give it to the Bears, similar to what the Raiders did to the Redskins in last year's draft?

Mitchell Davis
Rockville, MD

Editor's note — No, San Diego couldn't trade down its pick before giving it to the Bears because Chicago already owns the pick.



One Southern California reader thinks Jim McMahon belongs in San Diego and the state of champions. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

1989 NFL Schedule

WEEK 1

Sunday, Sept. 10

Tampa Bay 23, Green Bay 21
Chicago 17, Cincinnati 14
New Orleans 28, Dallas 0
L.A. Rams 31, Atlanta 21
Phoenix 16, Detroit 13
San Francisco 30, Indianapolis 24
Cleveland 51, Pittsburgh 0
New England 27, N.Y. Jets 24
Minnesota 38, Houston 7
Buffalo 27, Miami 24
Philadelphia 31, Seattle 7
Denver 34, Kansas City 20
L.A. Raiders 40, San Diego 14

Monday, Sept. 11

N.Y. Giants 27, Washington 24

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 17

Green Bay 35, New Orleans 34
Atlanta 27, Dallas 21
Kansas City 24, L.A. Raiders 19
Miami 24, New England 10
Cleveland 38, N.Y. Jets 24
Philadelphia 42, Washington 37
Cincinnati 41, Pittsburgh 10
San Francisco 20, Tampa Bay 16
New York Giants 24, Detroit 14
Chicago 38, Minnesota 7
Phoenix 34, Seattle 24
Houston 34, San Diego 27
L.A. Rams 31, Indianapolis 17

Monday, Sept. 18

Denver 28, Buffalo 14

Week 3

Sunday, Sept. 24

L.A. Rams 41, Green Bay 38
Indianapolis 13, Atlanta 9
Buffalo 47, Houston 41 (ot)
Chicago 47, Detroit 27
Pittsburgh 27, Minnesota 14
Tampa Bay 20, New Orleans 10
N.Y. Giants 35, Phoenix 7
San Francisco 38, Philadelphia 28
Seattle 24, New England 3
Washington 30, Dallas 7
San Diego 21, Kansas City 6
New York Jets 40, Miami 33
Denver 31, L.A. Raiders 21

Monday, Sept. 25

Cincinnati 21, Cleveland 14

Week 4

Sunday, Oct. 1

Green Bay 23, Atlanta 21
Cincinnati 21, Kansas City 17
Cleveland 16, Denver 13
Indianapolis 17, N.Y. Jets 10
Houston 39, Miami 7
Buffalo 31, New England 10
Washington 16, New Orleans 14
Pittsburgh 23, Detroit 3
Minnesota 17, Tampa Bay 3
San Diego 24, Phoenix 13
Seattle 24, L.A. Raiders 20
N.Y. Giants 30, Dallas 13
L.A. Rams 13, San Francisco 12

Monday, Oct. 2

Chicago 27, Philadelphia 13

Week 5

Sunday, Oct. 8

Green Bay 31, Dallas 13
Indianapolis 37, Buffalo 14
Tampa Bay 42, Chicago 35
Cincinnati 26, Pittsburgh 16
Miami 13, Cleveland 10 (ot)
Minnesota 24, Detroit 17
New England 23, Houston 13
Philadelphia 21, N.Y. Giants 19
Washington 30, Phoenix 28
Denver 16, San Diego 10
Kansas City 20, Seattle 16
San Francisco 24, New Orleans 20
L.A. Rams 26, Atlanta 14

Monday, Oct. 9

L.A. Raiders 14, N.Y. Jets 7

Week 6

Sunday, Oct. 15

Minnesota 26, Green Bay 14
Detroit 17, Tampa Bay 16
Houston 33, Chicago 28
Miami 20, Cincinnati 13
Atlanta 16, New England 15
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 17
San Francisco 31, Dallas 14
Seattle 17, San Diego 16
Denver 14, Indianapolis 3
Pittsburgh 17, Cleveland 7
New Orleans 29, N.Y. Jets 14
Philadelphia 17, Phoenix 5
L.A. Raiders 20, Kansas City 14

Monday, Oct. 16

Buffalo 23, L.A. Rams 20

Week 7

Sunday, Oct. 22

Miami 23, Green Bay 20
Kansas City 36, Dallas 28
Indianapolis 23, Cincinnati 12
Philadelphia 10, L.A. Raiders 7
Minnesota 20, Detroit 7
Buffalo 34, N.Y. Jets 3
Houston 27, Pittsburgh 0
Washington 32, Tampa Bay 28
San Francisco 37, New England 20
Phoenix 34, Atlanta 20
Denver 24, Seattle 21 (ot)
New Orleans 40, L.A. Rams 21
N.Y. Giants 20, San Diego 13

Monday, Oct. 23

Cleveland 27, Chicago 7

Week 8

Sunday, Oct. 29

Green Bay 23, Detroit 20, OT
New Orleans 20, Atlanta 13
Cleveland 28, Houston 17
Pittsburgh 23, Kansas City 17
Chicago 20, L.A. Rams 10
Buffalo 31, Miami 17
New England 23, Indianapolis 20, OT
Phoenix 19, Dallas 10
Cincinnati 56, Tampa Bay 23
San Francisco 23, N.Y. Jets 10
L.A. Raiders 37, Washington 24
Philadelphia 28, Denver 24
Seattle 10, San Diego 7

Monday, Oct. 30

N.Y. Giants 24, Minnesota 14

Week 9

Sunday, Nov. 5

Green Bay 14, Chicago 13
Atlanta 30, Buffalo 28
Cleveland 42, Tampa Bay 31
Houston 35, Detroit 31
Miami 19, Indianapolis 13
Minnesota 23, L.A. Rams 21, OT
N.Y. Jets 27, New England 26
Kansas City 20, Seattle 10
L.A. Raiders 28, Cincinnati 7
New York Giants 20, Phoenix 13
San Diego 20, Philadelphia 17
Denver 34, Pittsburgh 7
Dallas 13, Washington 3

Monday, Nov. 6

San Francisco 31, New Orleans 13

Week 10

Sunday, Nov. 12

Detroit 31, Green Bay 22
Chicago 20, Pittsburgh 0
Denver 16, Kansas City 13
Buffalo 30, Indianapolis 7
Miami 31, N.Y. Jets 23
Minnesota 24, Tampa Bay 10
New Orleans 28, New England 24
Washington 10, Philadelphia 3
San Francisco 45, Atlanta 3
Cleveland 17, Seattle 7
Phoenix 24, Dallas 20
L.A. Rams 31, N.Y. Giants 10
San Diego 14, L.A. Raiders 12

Monday, Nov. 13

Houston 26, Cincinnati 24

Week 11

Sunday, Nov. 19

New England 33, Buffalo 24
Cincinnati 42, Detroit 7
Kansas City 10, Cleveland 10
Miami 17, Dallas 14
Philadelphia 10, Minnesota 9
New Orleans 26, Atlanta 17
Pittsburgh 20, San Diego 17
Tampa Bay 32, Chicago 31
L.A. Rams 37, Phoenix 14
Houston 23, L.A. Raiders 7
N.Y. Giants 15, Seattle 3
Green Bay 21, San Francisco 17
Indianapolis 27, N.Y. Jets 10

Monday, Nov. 20

Denver 14, Washington 10

Week 12

Thursday, Nov. 23

Detroit 13, Cleveland 10
Philadelphia 27, Dallas 0

Sunday, Nov. 26

Green Bay 20, Minnesota 19
New York Jets 27, Atlanta 7
Buffalo 24, Cincinnati 7
Indianapolis 10, San Diego 6
Kansas City 34, Houston 0
Pittsburgh 34, Miami 14
Denver 41, Seattle 14
L.A. Raiders 24, New England 21
Tampa Bay 14, Phoenix 13
Washington 38, Chicago 14
L.A. Rams 20, New Orleans 17 (ot)

Monday, Nov. 27

San Francisco 34, N.Y. Giants 24

Week 13

Sunday, Dec. 3

Green Bay 17, Tampa Bay 16
Cincinnati 21, Cleveland 0
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 16
New England 22, Indianapolis 16
L.A. Rams 35, Dallas 31
Kansas City 26, Miami 21
Detroit 21, New Orleans 14
Philadelphia 24, N.Y. Giants 17
San Francisco 23, Atlanta 10
Washington 29, Phoenix 10
N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17
L.A. Raiders 16, Denver 13 (ot)
Minnesota 27, Chicago 16

Monday, Dec. 4

Seattle 17, Buffalo 16

Week 14

Sunday, Dec. 10

Minnesota 43, Atlanta 17
Philadelphia 20, Dallas 10
Detroit 27, Chicago 17
Kansas City 21, Green Bay 3
New Orleans 22, Buffalo 19
Pittsburgh 13, N.Y. Jets 0
Washington 26, San Diego 21
Seattle 24, Cincinnati 17
Houston 20, Tampa Bay 17
Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 17 (ot)
N.Y. Giants 14, Denver 7
L.A. Raiders 16, Phoenix 14
Miami 31, New England 10

Monday, Dec. 11

San Francisco 30, L.A. Rams 27

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 16

N.Y. Giants 15, Dallas 0
Denver 37, Phoenix 0

Sunday, Dec. 17

Green Bay 40, Chicago 28
Cincinnati 61, Houston 7
Indianapolis 42, Miami 13
Cleveland 23, Minnesota 17 (ot)
Pittsburgh 28, New England 10
San Diego 20, Kansas City 13
Detroit 33, Tampa Bay 7
Washington 31, Atlanta 30
L.A. Rams 38, N.Y. Jets 14
San Francisco 21, Buffalo 10
Seattle 23, L.A. Raiders 17

Monday, Dec. 18

New Orleans 30, Eagles 20

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 23

Buffalo 37, N.Y. Jets 0
Washington 29, Seattle 0
Cleveland 24, Houston 20

Sunday, Dec. 24

Green Bay 20, Dallas 10
Detroit 31, Atlanta 24
New Orleans 41, Indianapolis 6
Kansas City 27, Miami 24
N.Y. Giants 34, L.A. Raiders 17
L.A. Rams 24, New England 20
Philadelphia 31, Phoenix 14
Pittsburgh 31, Tampa Bay 22
San Francisco 26, Chicago 0
San Diego 19, Denver 16

Monday, Dec. 25

Minnesota 29, Cincinnati 21

NFL Standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-N.Y. Giants	12	4	0	.750	348	252
y-Philadelphia	11	5	0	.688	342	274
Washington	10	6	0	.625	386	308
Phoenix	5	11	0	.313	258	377
Dallas	1	15	0	.063	204	393
Central						
x-Minnesota	10	6	0	.625	351	275
Green Bay	10	6	0	.625	362	356
Detroit	7	9	0	.438	312	364
Chicago	6	10	0	.375	358	377
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	320	419
West						
x-San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	442	253
y-L.A. Rams	11	5	0	.688	426	344
New Orleans	9	7	0	.563	386	301
Atlanta	3	13	0	.188	279	437

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	East					
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Buffalo	9	7	0	.563	409	317
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500	298	301
Miami	8	8	0	.500	331	379
New England	5	11	0	.313	297	391
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	253	411
Central						
x-Cleveland	9	6	1	.594	334	254
y-Houston	9	7	0	.563	365	412
y-Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	265	326
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	404	285
West						
x-Denver	11	5	0	.688	362	226
Kansas City	8	7	1	.531	318	286
L.A. Raiders	8	8	0	.500	315	297
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	241	327
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	266	290

x-clinched division title
y-clinched playoff berth



BEAR REPORT

2nd Annual Readers' Poll

We want to know what you'd do
if you were in charge of the Bears

This is your chance to be the general manager of the Bears. Just tell us what you would do with each player at the end of the season by filling out the form below. Put an "X" next to each player's name under the appropriate column if you would keep him or

trade/cut him. Then mail it to: Readers' Poll, c/o Bear Report, 1271 W. Dundee Rd., Box 89E, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. All coupons must be received by Jan. 8. Results will be printed in the Jan. 29 issue.

2nd Annual Bear Report Readers' Poll Ballot

QUARTERBACKS

Player, age	Keep	Trade/Cut	Comment
Jim Harbaugh, 25			
Brent Snyder, 23			
Mike Tomczak, 27			

RUNNING BACKS

Neal Anderson, 25			
Brian Bero, 23			
Mark Green, 22			
Brad Muster, 24			
Thomas Sanders, 27			
Brian Taylor, 22			

TIGHT ENDS

Cap Boso, 26			
James Coley, 22			
James Thornton, 24			

WIDE RECEIVERS

Wendell Davis, 23			
Dennis Gentry, 30			
Glen Kozlowski, 26			
Dennis McKinnon, 28			
Ron Morris, 24			
Tom Waddle, 22			

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Mark Bortz, 28			
Jim Covert, 29			
Chris Dyko, 23			
Jerry Fontenot, 22			
Jay Hilgenberg, 29			
Tom Thayer, 28			
Keith Van Horne, 31			
John Wojciechowski, 26			
Dave Zawatson, 23			

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Player, age	Keep	Trade/Cut	Comment
Trace Armstrong, 23			
Dick Chapura, 25			
Richard Dent, 28			
Dan Hampton, 32			
Steve McMichael, 31			
William Perry, 26			
John Shannon, 24			
Tony Woods, 23			

LINEBACKERS

Steve Hyche, 26			
Troy Johnson, 23			
Dante Jones, 24			
Jim Morrissey, 26			
Mickey Pruitt, 24			
Ron Rivera, 27			
John Roper, 23			
Mike Singletary, 30			

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Maurice Douglass, 25			
Dave Duerson, 28			
Shaun Gayle, 27			
Vestee Jackson, 26			
Lorenzo Lynch, 26			
Markus Paul, 23			
Lemuel Stinson, 23			
George Streeter, 22			
David Tate, 24			
Donnell Woolford, 23			

SPECIALISTS

Maury Buford, 29			
Kevin Butler, 27			

Name _____ Address _____